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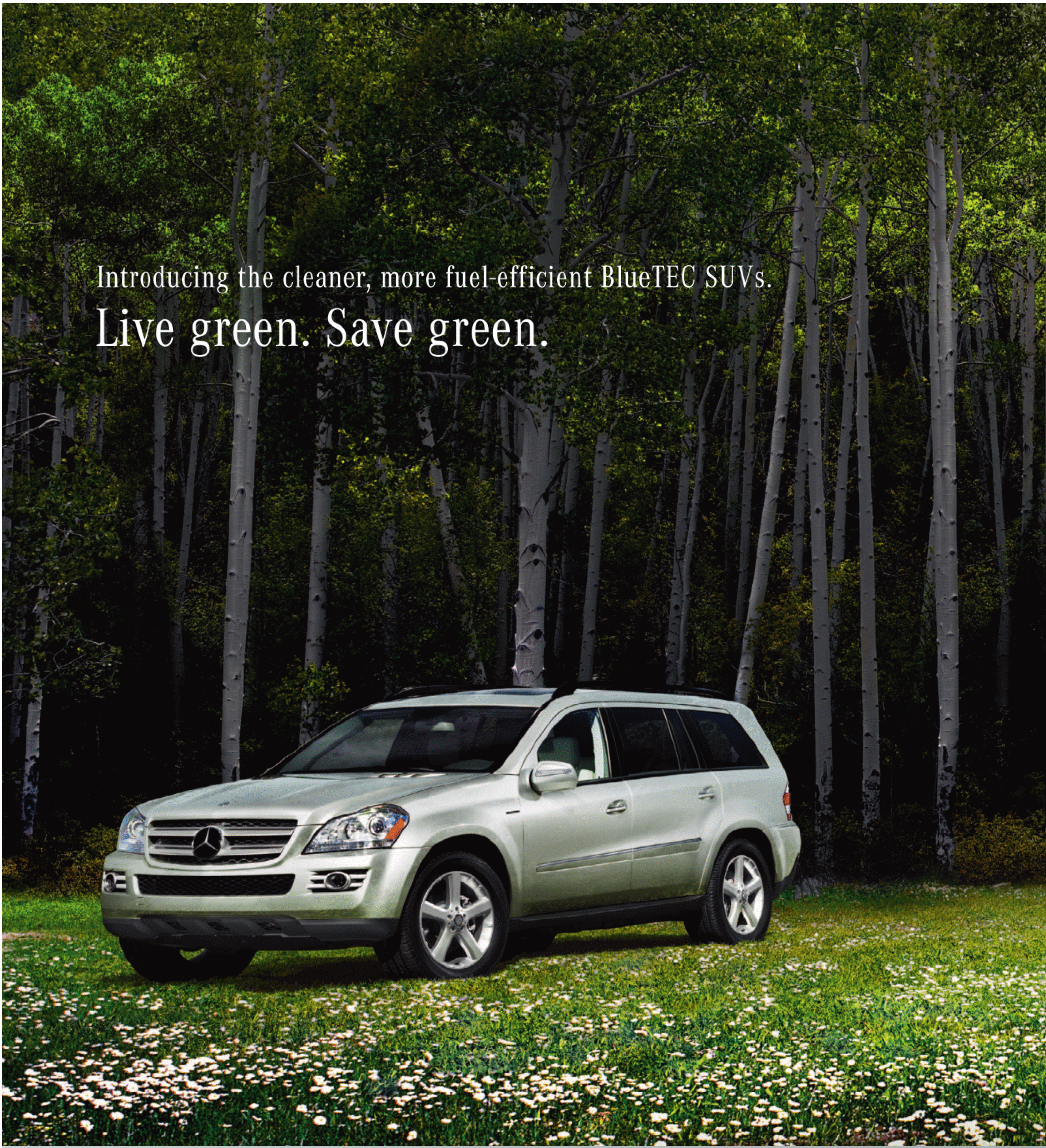

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WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH, THE SAYING GOES, THE TOUGH GO shopping. This holiday, though, we find that instead of the ka-ching of the cash register, what really rings our bells is staying close to home, spending time with loved ones, and adapting old treasures and traditions—all the intangibles that make the season memorable.

You'll discover that spirit throughout this issue. Consider Delaware's Jennifer Abramczyk ("Homemade for the Holidays," page 104) and her recipe for female bonding and fun with a purpose: Her version of girls' night in is gathering girlfriends into the spacious kitchen of her renovated 1928 Colonial home to whip up meals they can freeze for future use—especially handy during this hectic season.

The Tony and Tricia Sanchez family ("Making Magic," page 80) of Newport Beach, California, blends traditional Mexican Christmas customs with a new ritual: bundling up on Christmas Eve to see the sparkling holiday lights on Newport Bay by boat. (Their own new home—a study in airy simplicity—is a two minute walk from the beach.)

For Sue Ruge of Hinsdale, Illinois ("Into the Light," page 96), a fresh beginning for herself and her children after a difficult time was eased by making their new home breezier and less formal than their previous one, but with an exact replica of the den, their favorite room in the earlier house. An old fave even dictated the size of the new home's breakfast room—a much-admired harlequin-patterned Chinese needlepoint rug.

You'll love the way insouciant designer Annie Selke turns her family's Massachusetts house into a living laboratory by using items from her new home collection ("Working from Home," page 30). Endlessly creative, Annie's even reinterpreted the radiator cover she recalls from her grandparents' house as a dining room console.

Speaking of grandparents, the Icons feature (page 26) will have you rummaging through the jewelry box for your grandma's Christmas tree pin. (We hear that writer Kathy Flood manages a forest of some 3,500-plus vintage pins.) For me, though, nothing says Christmas quite like children and cookies, epitomized by the heart-stealing photo of 5-year-old Sophie Durn—red and green sprinkles at the ready—in "Dear Santa" (page 90). If I could be granted one wish (other than having my own daughter be this sweet age again), it would be that this holiday season bring a smile to light up your face, just like little Sophie's. Happy holidays to us all.

Ann Omvig Maine
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features

Working from Home 30
Massachusetts designer Annie Selke takes her work home—literally—where she "test lives" her fun yet sophisticated new lines of furniture, fabrics, and trims.

Great Expectations 71
The Malones called on Boston-based designer Gerald Pomeroy to infuse their 1910 Colonial Revival with an unfussy style that shows their love of art, antiques, and culture. He met the challenge with vibrant colors and cheerful surprises (like loveseats in coral wool).

Making Magic 80
For the Sanchez family of California's Newport Beach, Christmas in their spacious new seaside-inspired home means Mexican traditions, lighted boat parades, and fine, aged tequila to be sipped brandy-style.

Dear Santa 90
Both the cookies and the remodeled kitchen are drool-worthy in Dan and Sandi Durn's Craftsman-style home in San Anselmo, California. There's lots of space for the kids to play while Mom and Dad cook and entertain.

Into the Light 96
When Sue Ruge and her children downsized to a more casual home in their Hinsdale, Illinois, neighborhood, they eased the transition by replicating their favorite room from the old house—a cozy den.

Homemade for the Holidays 104
The Abramczyks of Delaware have not only adapted their historic Colonial for modern living but have turned it into a holiday workshop where great parties are held and warm memories made. ➤

Volume XIX Issue VIII

holiday 2008

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holiday

marketplace

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Blend the old and new, the faux and the precious to decorate with treasures you already have—and some hip new ones we'll introduce you to.

Icons: Pinnacles of Success 26
These *are* your grandmother's Christmas tree pins, surprisingly stylish and valuable.

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Welcoming warmth in the kitchen of Eleni Gianopulos (of Eleni's New York bakery fame)

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Karen Robertson's holiday creations from the sea

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Learning to make Saint Nick's Rosy Cheeks and other festive cocktails at Seattle's Dish it Up!

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Do you love stars and wreaths and stockings—all the motifs of the season? So do we. This holiday, we're going back to basics: celebrating with friends and family, spending time at home, giving gifts that show we care. But that doesn't mean simply doing the same old thing. Intrigued by designers who are jazzing up these age-old symbols, we think their twists on the tried-and-true will ring your chimes, too. ➤

now's the time **to shine**

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER KRUMHARDT

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For year-round razzle-dazzle: Bungalow 5 "Venice Towers," with gilded antiqued mirrors, $225 for 20˝ tall, $388 for 30˝, $588 for 42˝; at Joe Nye New York (212/486-7551).

silver & gold aglow with fire

When it comes to decoration for entertaining, we're looking to traditional icons of festivity, and so are designers. While they draw from comforting holiday memories, they are adapting them to today's tastes.

"Greenery, greenery, greenery. Sparkle, sparkle, sparkle," advises Capucine Gooding, who creates gorgeous tableware for Juliska, the company she started with her husband, David. Growing up, her family would alternate Christmas holidays: one year at home in Texas, the next in France, where her grandfather was a sugar-beet farmer. "We always had gardens, so we'd bring mounds of greenery inside," she says. "Now, I'll buy 300 feet of garlands and put them all over the house. David says it's too much, but I can't help myself. The holidays are about family and love, so I *want* to overdo things.

"Our Texas Christmas was lavish. There were mountains of presents under the tree. In France, they didn't have much. But, my grandmother could create palaces out of tissue paper and pipe cleaners."

Taking her lead, Gooding says that even when she and her husband were just starting out, she would always try to create something special out of very little—whether attaching a beguiling trinket to a wrapped present or using a marker to personalize white flour-sack dishtowels with guests' initials.

This year, she can set the table with her new Antares plate; its subtle star motif embossed on taupe-glazed stoneware evokes unpretentious refinement when paired with antique French linen, sparkling candlesticks, delicate glassware, and—of course!—mounds of greenery. A brightly colored tablecloth (not necessarily red or green) adds a festive touch to the ensemble.

Or, instead of natural garlands, try Artecnica's metal version, an exuberance of stylized leaves and flowers that looks spectacular indoors or out. ➤

REKINDLE AN OLD FLAME

Every winter, we celebrate light. That's why Adam Frank's "Lumen" oil lamps set us aglow; $50, MoMA Design Store (momastore.org, adamfrank.com). To cast a shadowy forest for a party, the Brooklyn-based artist suggests placing a little row of the lamps about three inches from the wall on a mantelpiece or in a dimly-lit powder room. We also love Ester & Erik's cone-shaped candles, *right*, $13–$14, at Tournesol (866/682-0115). Available in myriad hues, they stand up on their own, so you can arrange them with abandon.

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FA LA LA FOLIAGE

We like the attitude with which these jewel-like fuchsia bowls, set on jaunty clear feet, are patterned with abstract wreaths. The colors work well with silver and gold. Traditional? No. Festive? Definitely! "Verdure" crystal nesting bowls, $880; Artel, available at Trove (781/642-0484).

Above: "Flora" garland in mirrored stainless steel, 12 feet long, $5,251; Artecnica (323/655-6551). **Background:** "Glimmer" in Absinthe; Schumacher (fschumacher.com), trade only. **Left:** "Bronze Filigree Acorn Garland," 3 feet long, $15: Roost, available at Botanik (805/565-3831).

beyond the poinsettia

Lacy metal garlands from Roost are delicate enough to swirl down the center of a table. Or drape your mantelpiece with the ethereal garlands of baby's breath and white ceramic leaves that Fernanda Bourlot, owner of Simplemente Blanco, conjured up for the holidays.

In Fernanda's holiday collection, new aesthetics transform traditional ideas. "In my country (Argentina), Christmas is spent by the pool, outside under the sun, and dinner is alfresco," she says. "Now we live in Boston, so we go for a more wintry feeling; everything is white, combined with earth tones and an organic touch." Her Christmas stockings—not typically Argentine, but ubiquitous in the Northeast—are simply adorned with natural anise "stars" and little wooden buttons. ➤

FLOWER POWER

These papier-mâché posies are handmade by artisans in Haiti using recycled material, $150 each; Stray Dog Designs (straydogdesigns.com). A portion of each sale is donated to charity. On a jewel-toned cloth—such as Upcountry velvet in Grenadine from Scalamandré (800/932-4361), trade only—they're blooming chic.

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stars are brightly shining

Carol Karvazy's husband, Leve, comes from Hungary, where Christmas gifts are left in a shoe, she says. (This is one time work boots clearly trump Manolo Blahniks.) But now stockings are one of Carol and Leve's top sellers in their Sandor Collection. The Karvazys adapt designs drawn from shepherds' coats using a felt-appliqué technique to create stockings that look like authentic pieces of folk art. "I tell people you have to start your own traditions," Carol says.

Some merrymakers take the season to new levels of whimsy. Om Home designer Oorbee Roy and her husband, Sanjeev, use different themes every year. They've celebrated winter holidays with Persian feasts, Indian banquets, and Mexican fiestas, where food and decoration all contribute to kitschy fun. One year, Oorbee says, "We made paper flowers and asked everyone to wear Mexican-style clothes. And we had a piñata." Sounds like fun.

Of course, you don't have to transform your house completely—you're not competing with the Griswolds. Simply repurpose year-round items, especially those that are sparkly and bright. Take interior designer Joe Nye's lead and make the most of your grandma's silver coffee service. At Christmastime, he stuffs his full to bursting with red carnations. (After all, he has invited guests for cocktails and champagne, not caffeine drinks.) ➤

Right: "Versailles Etoile" vase, $175; Jonathan Adler (877/287-1910). **Bottom right:** "Antares" dessert plate, $35, Juliska (juliska.com for stores); table runner, $65, and 16-inch square napkin, $14, both from Teroforma (teroforma.com for stores).

PHOTOGRAPH: VASE COURTESY OF JONATHAN ADLER

WAY COOL

A contemporary alternative to candles at the windows is the electric "Joy Candle Lamp," $165, inspired by designer Josefin Hagberg's Scandinavian heritage. MoMA Design Store (momastore.org).

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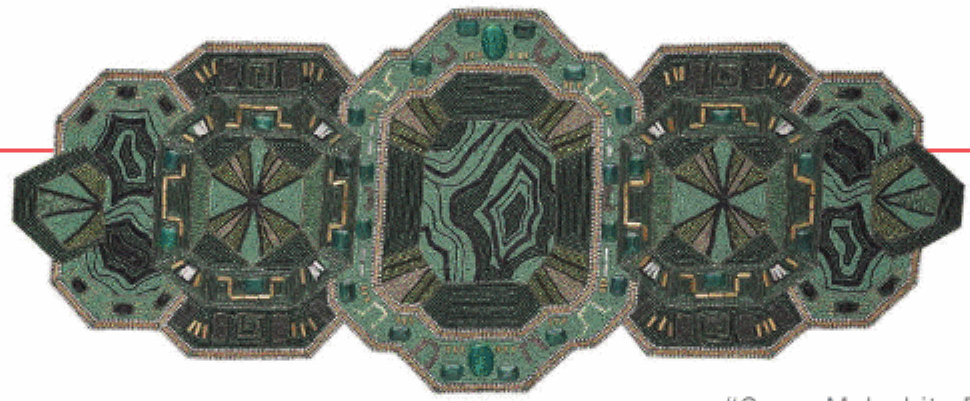

"Green Malachite Runner," $405, 42″ long; Kim Seybert, available at Neiman Marcus (888/888-4757).

JUST FOR OUR READERS

We asked Italian jewelry designer Annarita Vitali to create a limited edition of one of her best-loved pieces—a handmade floral spray pin. *A Presto!* There are only 150 of these ritzy-glitzy, palm-sized brooches, offered at a special price of $170. Hand-signed and in a signature pouch, each one sparkles with glass beads and faux jewels in a bold, refreshing take on what women like to wear. Don't miss a chance to own one of the unique designs that Annarita creates with daughter Chiara Veratti, *above*. This offer is strictly limited. Call 800/678-5752 or visit readershopping.com.

sweet stuff for stockings

Celebrity potter Jonathan Adler and Simon Doonan don't decorate much for the holidays. (Simon's pretty worn out from creating a new riff each year on that old chestnut, the department store holiday window, for Barneys.) So they bring out two vintage ornaments printed with Liberace's face, place one on each end of the mantel, and that's that. Jonathan eschews the typical red-and-green combo and instead uses pink-and-lime or white-and-gold, palettes he feels work best in Palm Beach, where they spend the season. The colors "always feel light and happy," he says.

Among the most meaningful presents we've found are from the ABC Home & Planet Foundation. Choosing one of founder Paulette Cole's "Gifts of Compassion," you honor your loved ones by contributing in their names to a range of causes, from educating Afghan girls to rebuilding houses in New Orleans. Eco-aware kids particularly might like to help protect endangered polar bears—or the rain forest. Certificates representing each gift come in vintage silk sari envelopes, which are just the right size to fit in a stocking. Now, that's cause for celebration. ■

"Pécs" stocking, $90; The Sandor Collection (thesandorcollection.com). "Jewel Cuff Napkin Ring," $28; Kim Seybert at Neiman Marcus (neimanmarcus.com).

PHOTOGRAPH: PORTRAIT, DARIO FUSARO

"Gifts of Compassion" certificates, $65–$130; ABC Home & Planet Foundation (abchomeandplanet.org).

For more ideas to stuff a stocking, set a table, or surprise your sweetie this holiday season, **visit traditionalhome.com** ➤

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BY KATHY FLOOD
PRODUCED BY DORIS ATHINEOS

pinnacles of success

Christmas-tree brooches **bring holiday brio**

Hillary Clinton loved hers so much she didn't want to take it off during White House holidays. Barbara Bush's bejeweled brooch boasted pearls. Angelina Jolie wore one as the perfect finishing touch when she played the wife of a 1960s CIA agent. In the realm of holiday arbors, myriad merry themes grow wild. There's even a Christmas-tree pin ➤

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER KRUMHARDT

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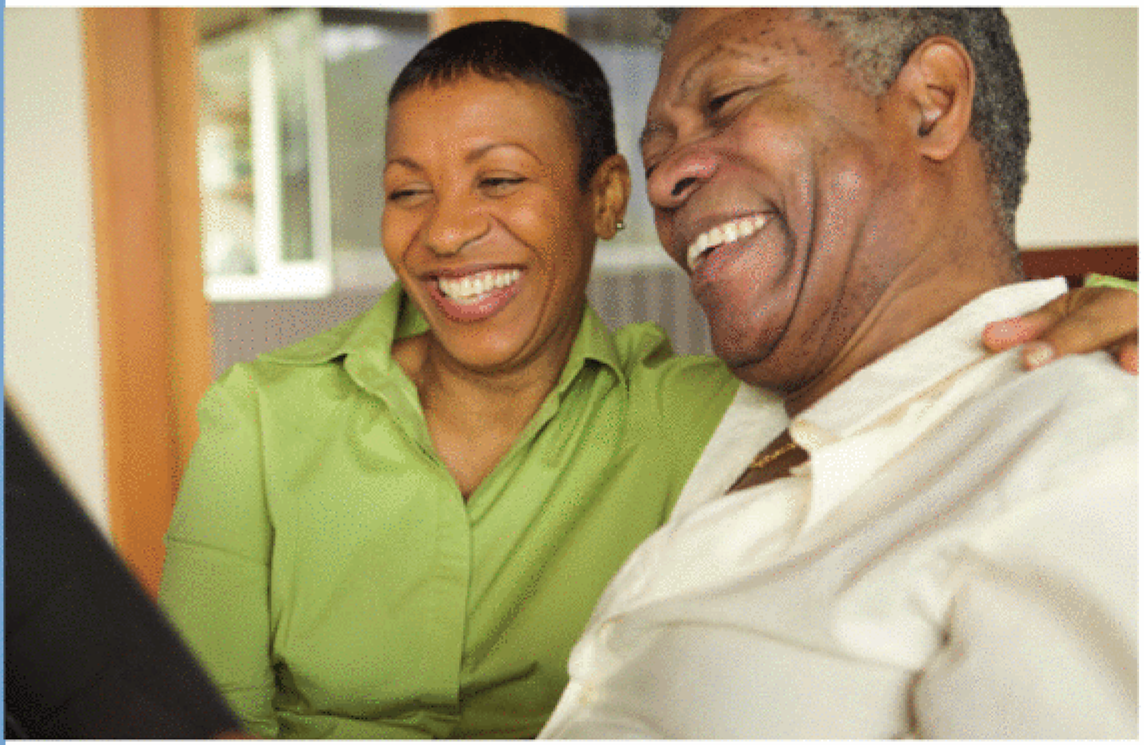

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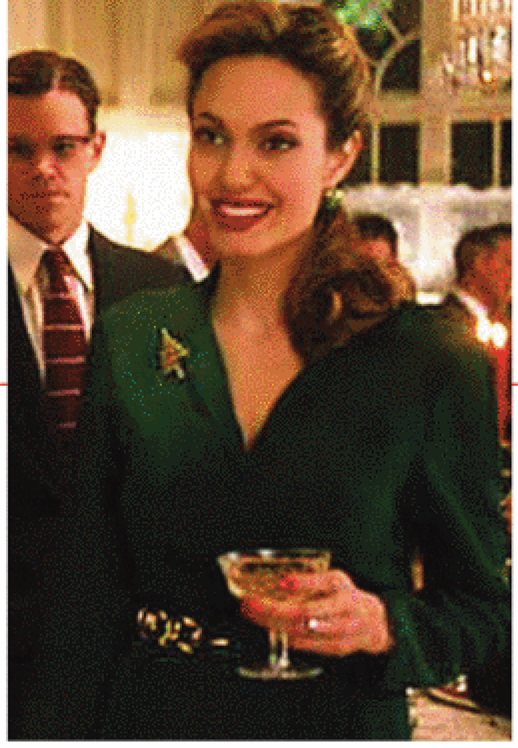


Angelina Jolie plays the role of a CIA wife (wearing a glittering Christmas tree pin) in *The Good Shepherd.*

that has Bullwinkle peeking out from behind a conifer's branches.

For a motif many imagine to be as humdrum as eggnog, thousands of Christmas tree brooches (dug up in jewelry markets around the world) instead express uniquely vivacious personalities. Hundreds are merely beautiful, others are aesthetically sophisticated, and many are downright zany.

Even earliest examples—Depression-era felt firs spangled with bugle beads, for instance—have their charms, albeit possessing a far weaker wow factor than, say, Cartier's zowie 1920s Art Deco masterpieces. As for everything in between, it's all there: Base metals, elegantly enameled like iced cookies that have been decorated by such jewelry design houses as Sandor, Art, Cadoro, and Originals by Robert, plus turquoise-studded sterling-silver trees by Mexican and Native American artisans. Then there are the rhinestone-encrusted rarities and familiar regulars by such esteemed old jewelry houses as Weiss, Hollycraft, Beatrix, Jonette, Hedison, and Eisenberg. There are also coveted Christmas creations by Swarovski as well as all manner of festive trees by designers famous and anonymous.

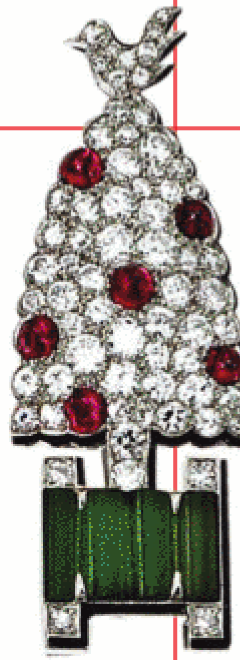
1 Eisenberg Ice 1975 glass-cone pin, signed "Eisenberg" (worth about $400). **2 Lianna** 1990s "vineyard" pin with green rhinestones, signed "LIA" ($75). **3 Stanley Hagler** 1986 Christmas-tree pin with champagne pearls and clear rhinestones ($150). **4 Laguna** 1960s Austrian multi-colored, stained-glass pin ($150). **5 Swarovski** 2004 bow-topped Pagoda tree pin ($125). **6 Unsigned French** 1940s butterscotch-colored tree pin made of Galalith, a casein-based resin ($150). **7 Freirich** 1970s tree pin with veined glass leaves and red rhinestones ($150). **8 Lea Stein** French red cellulose acetate tree ($125). **9 Unsigned American** Art Nouveau ($150). **10 Stuart Freeman** 1993 pin decked with gold chain and bark found in Central Park ($150). **11 Unsigned American** white rococo enamel tree ($75). **12 Israeli Yossi Steinberg's** 2000 tree pin ($50). **13 Lianna** 1990s tree pin of emerald baguettes, signed "LIA" ($125). **14 Bold Elegance** pin with pavé-set rhinestones ($250).

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER KRUMHARDT; ANGELINA JOLIE, UNIVERSAL PICTURES/PHOTOFEST; CARTIER PIN, SOTHEBY'S

12

13

14



PRICEY PINE

A rare and coveted Cartier tree pin with a dove topper sprang up at Sotheby's last year. Set with diamonds, rubies, and nephrite, the uncommon spruce fell for $46,000. The sparkly Art Deco conifer was created in 1930 and is one of the oldest tree pins.

It's possible no one played a bigger role in turning throwaway plastic '50s Christmas-tree pin novelties into collectible works of ingenious design than New York's Lewin sisters (better known by their married names, Marge Borofsky and Lynne Gordon). When marriage separated the Marge-and-Lynne sorority in the '60s, they decided a business could keep them in touch long-distance between Manhattan and Massachusetts. Mylu, a company now renowned in Christmas-jewelry circles, was the result. Its sole original product—festive holiday corsages—enjoyed such brisk business, the firm quickly branched out into metal brooches. Working in tandem with designer Alfeo Verrecchia and his associates at a design-manufacturing firm in Rhode Island, it did dozens of dynamite doodads, from a pink rock-candy confection to one shimmying with bezel-set navettes (marquise-cut stones). Who could possibly throw such high-style accessories away, even if they were seasonal costume pieces?

Considering which Christmas icons to show this year, we didn't go historical, chronological, or metallurgical. We figured you'd just like to see some great-looking pine design from decades recent and receding. Quaint, they ain't. In fact, these Christmas-tree brooch creations are so exciting, you might even call them tannenbombs.

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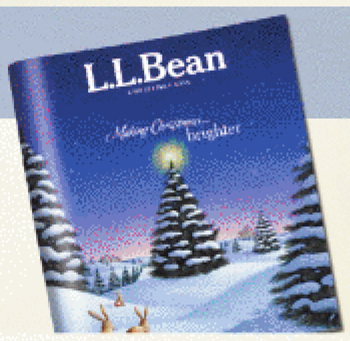

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BY KATRINE AMES PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN RANDAZZO PRODUCED BY SABINE ROTHMAN

working from home

DESIGNER **ANNIE SELKE** TRANSFORMS HER FAMILY HOUSE WITH VISION, PAINT, AND HER LATEST CREATIONS

The master bedroom's Colefax and Fowler "Fuchsia" wallpaper inspired designer Annie Selke's new, lighter palette in her home. She designed the gold-leaf canopy bed for her Annie Selke Home furniture line. The bed linens are from Pine Cone Hill. **Left:** When she redid her house, Annie kept a lot of furniture she loved, such as this drum table. The wing chairs and the upholstery fabric are from her collection.

The generous size of the cocktail table, designed for her Annie Selke Home line, suits the study, where the family likes to watch TV and listen to music. (Annie's relaxed enough here that when her rambunctious puppy, Emmet, ate the wooden knot on the table's stretcher, she didn't flinch.)

"Eddie," a leather club chair, was also designed for her furniture line. It manages to be both chic and relaxed as it cozies up to the "Bertram" sofa covered in Annie's slate-colored "Sarala," a classic print. The wooden legs are painted to lighten things up.

She started it all by bleaching the oak floors in the front hall, study, and living room. "It instantly transformed them," says designer Annie Selke, who last year decided to make major changes to the interior of her 1886 house.

Annie is the creative dervish behind three home-design firms—Pine Cone Hill, Dash & Albert Rug Company, and Potluck Studios—that she runs with her husband, Whitney. The bleach was the initial step in her chemistry experiment. She turned the couple's barn-red shingled house, which is also home to daughter Charlotte and three Clumber spaniels, into a laboratory. She brightened the palette and remade many of the rooms by filling them with her own furniture, fabrics, and trims that she has just designed for Annie Selke Home (ASH) and which will be available from Vanguard Furniture and Calico Corners/Calico Home. The collection is appropriately named, since Annie is, in fact, living with her work at home.

A mad scientist (or a madcap designer) is probably the only person who could pull this off. "You have to know your tolerance for change," says Annie, who admits she has plenty. When the Selkes bought the house in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, seven years ago, they did extensive remodeling. This latest undertaking was different: Without physically altering space, Annie changed both the look and the tone of the house, yet preserved its emotional resonance. "This is a happy house. It's not intimidating because it's in the country and was built as a summer house. There's an informality to it. I didn't want anything heavy."

A sunny palette with easy elegance has replaced a richer, heavier one. The terra-cotta living room now boasts colors of the sea; the dark paisley in the downstairs bathroom has given way to a creamy scheme modeled on the Chinese Pavilion in Sweden's Drottningholm Castle. Among a few things Annie couldn't bear to abandon were the dining room's jungly walls (by Sue Leal, who also painted a new mural for the Chinese-Swedish bath).

Farrow & Ball's "Plain Stripe" wallpaper brings classical elegance to the living room's cheerful palette. Annie sits in front of a De Gournay hand-painted wallpaper. She splurged for it on the one windowless living room wall. The silver-leaf helps brighten the space.

A pair of Annie's "Town Settees" face each other in front of the fireplace. A display of pillows adds color, comfort, and pizzazz to the bargello-like "Ila" pattern of the upholstery. The "Bamboo Cocktail" ottoman is covered in Vanguard's "Delphine" fabric in clover.

The Selkes' rambling Victorian house is painted red, which is particularly welcome during gray New England winters. In summertime, the deep wraparound porch is set with traditional wicker furniture, where everyone can relax and enjoy lush green views of the Berkshires.

The public rooms and master bedroom—the remaining bedrooms will have to wait—are now a living showcase of the furniture and fabrics that have emerged from Annie's imagination this last year for the collection: 85 pieces of furniture, ranging from beds and sofas to ottomans, tables, and chairs, as well as 40 fabrics, including eyelet, embroidery, and matelassé. "I was designing furniture, and some pieces were already in my house," she says. "But the fabrics made me change the house. I've never had bolts and bolts before. I'm excited to live with it."

Her inspirations are as varied as the work itself. A radiator cover that was in her grandparents' house has been reimagined as a dining-room console. "I drew on my favorite things," Annie says. "Some are reproductions of antiques I've always loved, like spindle chairs." Her enthusiasm for textiles and art history inform her work. You'll see 1940s France in a tapering high-backed sofa and sense Biedermeier in a round table with an octagonal base. The giddy ghosts of Britain's Brighton Pavilion—a 19th-century explosion of Indian-Chinese decoration—appear in a tufted, faux-bamboo ottoman.

Annie thought about comfort as well as aesthetics. "I worked on the 'ride' of each chair," she says. "When you're sitting in a good one, you don't think about it, but a bad one—wow." There are a few pieces, such as a charming side chair with a frame carved to look like draped curtains, in which appearance out- ➤

In the dining room, Annie's "Piper Console" is a surprising contrast to Sue Leal's jungle mural and the Dash & Albert "Zebra" rug.

A fanciful antique horned chair contributes to the jungle theme.

Her glass-topped dining table with demilune extensions is chic and flexible. The circle-back side chairs echo the demilunes' curves.

Annie based her design for the "O'Hara" chairs on treasured antiques.

A Chinese pavilion in a Swedish castle inspired the powder room. The "Hayworth Carved Chair" in "Slubby Linen" is part of the ASH collection.

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Right: On the floor plan of Annie's first floor (without the kitchen, which connects to the dining room), the numbered circles correspond to photographs on preceding pages. **Bottom right:** Farrow & Ball's "Plain Stripe" in colors of the sea replaced the same pattern in red in the living room and is in keeping with the master bedroom's Colefax and Fowler "Fuchsia" wallpaper.

Paint Primer

Want a quick way to refresh or dramatically change your house? Just repaint. It's less expensive than other changes, and if you're not happy, the remedy is simple: choose another color. To test, get a sample can—Farrow & Ball's Pale Powder is in the study—and paint a square on a large piece of paper taped to the wall.

Talking Textiles

Annie's colorful fabrics for Calico Corners include, **from top:** "Shalini" in taupe/raspberry, "Esha" in raspberry/pink, and "Ila" in citrus. "This is a sophisticated collection," she says. "It lets you be adventurous without going too far wrong." The stripey fabric at the right is "Delphine in Clover" (a Vanguard fabric).

Perfect Placements

Since the living room is a more formal space, Annie chose a symmetrical arrangement of furniture, using the fireplace as a focal point. In the study, which is where the family hangs out, a looser furniture plan does the job of creating a casual feeling—and avoids blocking doors that lead to the foyer and the covered porch.

weighs utility, but they are the exception. "I want comfort, function, and—most important—good proportions," Annie insists.

At home, she says, "I want people to be comfortable. I make a list of requirements. Rooms should be inviting, approachable, and evoke happiness but still be sophisticated."

Though she changed things on a grand scale, she advises others to start small. Begin with the overall feeling you want to create. A good place to start is choosing a palette or a rug. "Try paint. It's cheap, and if you take a wrong turn, you can always fix it. Take a risk," she advises. As for furniture, "Don't get everything at once. Add pieces judiciously."

Now that she's had a taste of full-throttle furniture and fabric design, what's next? "I haven't done lamps yet, but I might," she says. "What's left? I know—a house!" She might be kidding, but don't count on it. ■

For more information, see sources on page 112

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body + soul

BY JENNIFER WILSON PRODUCED BY JENNY BRADLEY

home sweet home

THE WOMAN BEHIND ELENI'S NEW YORK BAKERY **ESCAPES WORK BY IMMERSING IN IT**

It's a mellow holiday weekend, and baker Eleni Gianopulos works a piece of dough on the stainless-steel island in her Upper East Side Manhattan kitchen. Morning light pours in from tall, narrow windows, illuminating clouds of flour like smoke.

Husband Randall sips coffee at the kitchen table as he and Chestnut, their Cavalier King Charles spaniel, study ➤

Eleni Gianopulos and son William share some decadent holiday treats at home.

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT JACOBS

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Clockwise from above: Eleni, son William, and Cavalier King Charles spaniel, Chestnut, in their New York City kitchen. ■ Designer Steven Sclaroff used bold blue-and-white "The Vase" wallpaper from Clarence House to give the kitchen an energetic vibe. ■ Cookies and cupcakes are from Eleni's latest line of treats for the holiday.

the Food Network on television. Son William alternately removes and replaces pans in a deep drawer while baby Sophia watches. Eleni looks up from her cookbook propped on an antique stand, taking in her family.

"Making sweet things for others—for me, it's comforting," she says. "When I'm baking, this kitchen smells like love."

Though she spends her days designing iced sugar cookies disguised as princesses, butterflies, Oscar nominees, and snowmen for her bakery—Eleni's New York—downtime means experimenting at home, in a space that is at once traditional and unexpected.

Graphic blue-and-white wallpaper sets the stage with cheerful energy. The refrigerator, dishwasher, and oven are conveniently within arm's reach. Open shelves overflow with dishes, gadgets, glass jars, and measuring tools. If cabinets have doors, they're glass—a love of transparency that extends to the Lucite bar stools at the center island. State-of-the-art appliances inhabit a double-deep countertop. Cookbooks line a fine old antique bookshelf, a visual break in the cabinetry. ➤

Eleni's culinary must-haves

Ice cream scoops She uses them for everything from pancakes to meatballs to cookies. "I love my ice cream scoops," Eleni effuses. "I've been known to carry one in my handbag."

Pastry bags With a full supply of shapes and sizes at home and at work, Eleni whips these out to frost cakes, put toppings on sundaes, or embellish deviled eggs.

Comercial-quality baking sheets Hers are made of alumium-coated steel.

Dacor electric oven "It bakes better than gas!" she says.

Cuisinart food processor A countertop essential.

KitchenAid mixer The Artisan stand mixer, in particular, is a can't-do-without for the veteran baker.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ROBERT JACOBS; MIXER, PETER KRUMHARDT

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Right: A blue-and-white palette prevails in Eleni's crisp kitchen.
Below, from left: "Juicy Jute Grasscloth" in navy bean (phillipjeffries.com); "Block Print" stripe (farrow-ball.com); "Pavilion" (romofabrics.com). All trade only.

kitchen couture

Dress the part with Anthropologie's "Baker's Delight" apron, $32 (anthropologie.com).

a pinch of color

Add a dash of color to your kitchen with Anthropologie's "Mod Measuring Set," $20 (anthropologie.com).

"Why not have all the everyday things right at hand, accessible?" Eleni asks. "When both people in a marriage work, and have busy lives and kids, why not make life easier?"

Tonight the family will welcome friends for dinner. As usual, dessert is served first. Cake, cookies, maybe a few bars. Eleni and Randall will eventually get around to making a chicken-in-phyllo entrée, a nod to their Greek heritage.

"I love the idea of putting my own spin on the traditional," says Eleni, recalling her evolution to queen of the quintessential cookie after earlier days of selling her mother's oatmeal-raisin cookies from her apartment.

Opened in 1997, Eleni's bakery in New York's Chelsea Market presents itself like an art gallery—one filled with cupcakes, snickerdoodles, and macaroons in artful packages inspired by artists Wayne Thiebaud, Takashi Murakami, Yoshitomo Nara, and Chuck Close.

At Eleni's home, bright dahlias erupt from a Jeff Koons vase, bowls are stacked everywhere, and nuts are piled on a cutting board while a hand-mixer whirs. "There's a certain level of chaos in all of it," Eleni says, smiling. "But I always know what's going on."

For the woman who artfully mixes work and home, this seems like just the right recipe. ■

PHOTOGRAPHS: KITCHEN AND STORE, ROBERT JACOBS; PRODUCTS, PETER KRUMHARDT

KITCHEN TIPS FROM ELENI

For the perfect baker's kitchen, be sure to include:
Deep marble counters Eleni believes that cool marble is the ideal surface for working with dough.
Stainless steel counters Eleni's center island has a stainless steel counter—the best heat-resistant surface for stacking hot pots, pans, and baking trays.
Lots of natural light It may not help with the baking, but it certainly adds to the ambience.
Toaster oven A great way to test small batches!
Multiple sinks At least two sinks in the kitchen is ideal—one for food prep and one to handle cleanup.
Bookcases Include bookcases (antiques add personality) or shelving for adequate cookbook storage.

find it For more information on Eleni's New York bakery or to order holiday treats, call 888/435-3647 or visit elenis.com.

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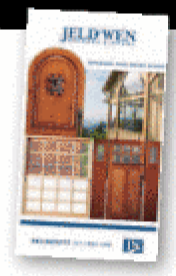

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COLLEEN DUFFLEY

she sells seashells

IT'S A SHORE THING FOR A **FLORIDA** COUPLE'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

For artist Karen Robertson, the phrase "beach holiday" conjures up a scenic detour from the proverbial oceanside cabanas filled with happy loungers holding colorful libations. A former designer and manufacturer of store displays for Talbots, Karen has her own artful interpretations, which she's been creating since 2006. They consist of thousands of shells that have been stacked, glued, and wired into objects that resemble traditional Christmas decorations—but with a difference. They're made of materials indigenous to her winter getaway in Ponte Vedra, Florida. (She and her husband, David, live in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, during the summer months.) ➤

In preparation for the holidays, artist and accessory designer Karen Robertson hangs a garland made of bleached shells.

Top row, from left: On the dining room wall, framed shellwork is symmetrically hung around a faux hawksbill turtle shell made of resin. ■ Sliced tibia shells are arranged to form a snowflake pattern. ■ Ultrasuede placemats anchor settings decoraated with sea fans and topped with sea urchins and seahorse-adorned napkin rings.
Middle row, from left: Clamshells and sprigs of holly are affixed to star-shaped boxes that decorate the kitchen table. ■ A garden urn containing coral is an elegant and indigenous alternative to typical holiday greenery and poinsettias.
Bottom row, from left: Sea urchins stacked to form pyramids are given a luxurious elevation in a garden urn. ■ Glass canisters in Karen's workshop are filled with varieties of the shells she uses to create her decorative accessories. ■ An oval box covered with umbonium and baby clam shells.

Trees constructed from sea urchins, shells fashioned into snowflake forms and framed between panes of glass, boxes covered with miniature shells, and starfish and clamshells wired into graceful garlands are just a few of the ideas that Karen and David have developed to transform even the sunniest location into a glorious and festive Christmas.

"My husband and I are both from New England and grew up with snow and pine trees," says Karen. "We wanted to celebrate the Christmas holiday in a big way in Florida, but we felt we should adapt it for the location. Because we live on the water, it made sense to work with marine life instead of holly berries and pinecones, and with an elegant and sophisticated oyster-colored palette instead of a typical green and red one."

Inspired by her walks on the beach or among the nearby trees where she discovers a bounty of items that waves have washed ashore, Karen's keen eye zeros in on those organic shapes in nature that can seamlessly turn into uncommon Christmas decor. She notes that starfish naturally lend themselves to the stars that sparkle during the holidays; the round shape of sea urchins resembles ornaments, and sea fans dyed in a variety of colors double as natural placemats under formal porcelain dinnerware used for a holiday feast.

Karen often puts gifts in her handmade shell boxes. But Wylie, her Cavalier King Charles spaniel, prefers to escape the holiday bustle.

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Karen credits her husband for the engineering that goes into shell swags, wreaths, and wooden boxes that she covers. He cuts all of the wooden bases and creates special combinations of roping and brackets to secure shells and make the pieces hang properly. "Shells are heavy and require a different construction than pine needles," she explains. "That's part of it. There is no rhyme or reason to what I'll come up with next—just whatever I jot down in my little moleskin sketchbooks that are placed all over the house. The entire process happens spontaneously, and that's what makes each piece a surprise." ■

DETAILS: Karen's decorative pieces range in price from $200 to $1,200. Visit her Web site at karenrobertson.biz to see a full range of products, or call her at 904/280-5758.

The kitchen, in a departure from the cool, blue palette in the rest of the house, has a red-and-white scheme.

Opposite, top row: A garland of bay leaves elegantly drapes over a tufted headboard. ■ In Karen's studio, a faux hawksbill turtle shell with tortoise coloration is attached to a pedestal.

Opposite, middle row: A nap hits the spot for Wylie, the Robertsons' dog. ■ On the bedside table, blue limpet shells cover the surface of a rectangular box. Pearlized turbo shells frame a round mirror.

Opposite, bottom row: In addition to her shellwork, Karen also makes ultrasuede pillows with appliqués depicting sea life. ■ Karen arranges a display of limpet shells.

cooking school

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY STEPHEN EXEL

Cocktail hour: Author A.J. Rathbun (left) and students Jenn Cooper (center) and Sara Meyer get all shook up.

shake shake shake

CHEERS! A HOLIDAY COCKTAIL AND HORS D'OEUVRE CLASS SETS **A FESTIVE TONE**

There's a must on your Seattle to-do list: a cooking class at Dish It Up!—a cooking school-cum-kitchen store in the Magnolia Village neighborhood. "Classes here are much like a chef's table," says owner Andrea Reith. Local foodie celebrities take the helm most weeknights to teach subjects ranging from Heavenly Truffles to a Holiday Dinner Party. This season, author A.J. Rathbun's Holiday Cheer class ➤

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL SKOTT

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I drink to the days that are!

—WILLIAM MORRIS

THE RIGHT BET Fill shaker halfway with ice cubes. Add 1 ounce Blackberry Liqueur (see recipe, page 56), 2 ounces vodka, and 1 ounce Chambord. Shake well. Strain into cocktail glass; garnish with lemon twist. Makes 1 drink. Pair with Broccoli Parmesan Puffs.

TROPICAL GETAWAY Fill tall cocktail glass halfway with ice cubes. Add ½ ounce grenadine to glass. Combine 2 ounces pineapple juice, 1 ounce orange juice, and ½ ounce freshly squeezed lime juice; slowly add to glass. Fill glass almost to top with ginger ale. Garnish with pineapple wedge. Makes 1 cocktail. Pair with Caribbean Stuffed Mushrooms.

THE SNOW ANGEL Place coarse red and/or white decorating sugar in shallow dish. Wet rims of two martini glasses with damp paper towel. Dip in sugar to coat rims; set aside. Fill shaker halfway with ice cubes. Add 2 ounces chocolate vodka, 2 ounces white crème de cacao, 2 ounces Coole Swan Irish liqueur, and 1 ounce orange liqueur. Cover; shake well. Strain mixture into prepared glasses. Top with chocolate curls. Makes 2 cocktails. Pair with Chocolate Orange Strawberries.

SAINT NICK'S ROSY CHEEKS In pitcher combine 1 (750-milliliter) bottle rosé wine, 2¼ cups citrus vodka, 1 cup Simple Syrup (see recipe, page 56), and 1 teaspoon orange bitters. For each serving, fill cocktail shaker halfway with ice cubes. Add 6 tablespoons (3 ounces) rosé mixture. Cover and shake well. Add 1 or 2 cherries to cocktail or cordial glass. Strain mixture over cherries. Makes 18 cocktails. Pair with Blue Cheese Cherry Crostini.

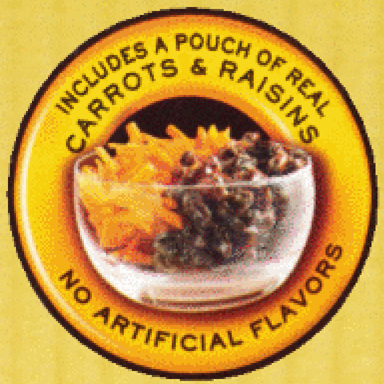
BUBBLY POINSETTIA In pitcher stir together 2¼ cups gin, 1 cup grenadine, ¾ cup maraschino liqueur, and ⅓ cup lemon juice. For each cocktail, fill shaker halfway with ice cubes. Add ⅓ cup gin mixture. Shake well. Strain mixture into champagne flute and top with chilled Champagne. Garnish with lemon slice or wedge. Makes 12 cocktails. Pair with Gorgeous Gougères.

pairs libations and party fare, serving them up with a twist.

A.J. (left, with students) is a mixology and entertaining expert. His book *Good Spirits* won a 2008 International Association of Culinary Professionals cookbook award, and he has authored the just-released *Luscious Liqueurs* and *Party Snacks*. A site editor for the kitchen and home divisions of Amazon.com, A.J. has a résumé that includes rock band roadie, poet, and, naturally, bartender.

As students gather around the 16-foot counter in the comfortable Dish It Up! presentation kitchen, A.J. delivers instruction with a wit as dry as a martini. "One of my main focuses is to make students realize they can throw a great ➤

PHOTOGRAPHS: DISH IT UP!, MICHAEL SKOTT; DRINKS, PETER KRUMHARDT



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party and still have fun as the host or hostess. Just one or two signature drinks keeps the bar manageable. And like cocktails, party foods should have the right balance of flavors. With these five snacks, you've the makings of a classic cocktail party."

As Andrea and assistant Susan Kelliher whip up nibbles to enjoy while each drink is prepared, students work in pairs to learn five cocktails, each with a different ingredient base—sparkling wine, spirit, cordial, wine, or fruit juice.

As he begins, A.J. grabs his favorite shaker to demonstrate proper technique. "Eight to 15 seconds is enough to combine and chill, unless you're Nick or Nora Charles of *The Thin Man* movie fame, who shook their drinks in waltz time," he notes with a wry smile and a nod to Hollywood's most glamorous cocktailers.

Students first learn how to make the Bubbly Poinsettia, a champagne cocktail with gin, grenadine, lemon, and maraschino accents. The pale red-tinged sparkler pairs with Gorgeous Gougères, airy cheese puffs featured in *Party Snacks*. The duo receives enthusiastic approval from the class, and things are off to a rollicking good start.

From there, A.J. teaches four additional holiday-perfect drinks and nibbles, including a tropics-inspired non-alcoholic sipper and The Snow Angel, a creamy combination of chocolate vodka, crème de cacao, orange liqueur, and Irish liqueur.

This class finishes with high spirits. "The combination of hors d'oeuvre and cocktails was delicious and diverse," comments student Mark Butler. "The class was well-taught, fun, and funny."

We'll drink to that!

SIMPLE SYRUP Combine 1½ cups granulated sugar and 1¼ cups water in saucepan. Stirring occasionally, bring mixture to boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes. Remove from heat; cool in pan. Refrigerate in glass jar up to 1 month. Makes about 2 cups.

BLACKBERRY LIQUEUR Gently wash 3 cups fresh blackberries; dry on towels. Place blackberries in glass container with tight-fitting lid. Wash, dry, and remove peel from 1 lemon, scraping any white pith from peel. Add lemon peel to blackberries. Using wooden spoon, gently mash blackberries and peel. Add one 750-milliliter bottle vodka; stir and seal jar. Place in cool, dry spot away from sunlight. Let sit 2 weeks, swirling occasionally. Add 1¾ cups Simple Syrup (see recipe above). Stir again; reseal. Let sit 2 more weeks. Strain liqueur through double layer of 100% cotton cheesecloth into pitcher. Strain again through 2 new layers of cheesecloth into large bottle or small bottles or jars. Serve at room temperature or chilled. Makes about 3¼ pints. —from *Luscious Liqueurs*

Here's to the wine we love to drink and the food we like to eat.

—IRISH TOAST

The award-winning *Good Spirits* (Harvard Common Press, $30) and *Party Snacks* and *Luscious Liqueurs* (both Harvard Common Press, $13) are witty, comprehensive guides to classic and updated entertaining (amazon.com).

details: Dish It Up! is located at 2425 33rd Avenue W., Suite B, Seattle, Washington. Contact the school at 206/281-7800 or dish-it-up.com for class schedules. Classes start at $70 per person.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DISH IT UP! SHAKER AND BOOKS, MICHAEL SKOTT; FOOD, PETER KRUMHARDT

cooking school

CHOCOLATE ORANGE STRAWBERRIES

2 pounds fresh strawberries
2 medium oranges
3 cups semisweet chocolate pieces
⅓ to ½ cup whipping cream

Rinse and dry strawberries; set aside. Finely shred peel from oranges; set aside. (Reserve oranges for another use.) Put chocolate in top of double boiler, and place over lightly simmering water. (Make sure water does not touch bottom of double boiler top.) Cook and stir over low heat until chocolate is melted and smooth.

Add orange peel to melted chocolate. Chocolate mixture will firm up quickly. Gradually stir in enough whipping cream to give chocolate a spreading or dipping consistency, adding more cream as needed. Dip each strawberry into chocolate mixture, or spread chocolate mixture over strawberries with small spatula. Place chocolate-covered strawberries on waxed, paper-lined baking sheet. Chill 1 hour or freeze 20 minutes before serving. Carefully peel strawberries off paper to serve. Makes 36 to 40 berries.

BROCCOLI PARMESAN PUFFS

3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
2 medium leeks, chopped (⅔ cup)
2 cups chopped fresh broccoli
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
2 ounces Parmesan cheese, cut into rough pea-size cubes (½ cup)
¼ cup chopped prosciutto or cooked ham
½ of 17.3-ounce package frozen puff pastry sheets, thawed (1 sheet)
4 to 5 dried tomatoes (oil-pack), drained and cut into strips

Preheat oven to 400°F. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil to large skillet. Heat over medium-high heat. Add leeks; cook and stir 2 minutes. Add broccoli; stir well, cover, and reduce the heat to medium. Cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove leek-broccoli mixture from heat; transfer to food processor. Add salt and pepper. Cover; pulse 3 to 5 times until chopped but not mushy. Pour mixture into bowl; add cheese and ham. Stir to combine.

Unfold puff pastry sheet. Cut into 9 squares; cut each square into two triangles. Using pastry brush, lightly oil baking sheet with cooking oil. Arrange triangles on oiled baking sheet. Lightly brush each triangle with remaining oil. Bake 9 minutes.

Remove puff pastry triangles from oven. Using a teaspoon or small paring knife, carefully cut through the top few layers of pastry to create a hole. Spoon filling into hole and on top of each pastry triangle. Top filling with strips of dried tomato. Return to oven; bake 3 to 5 minutes more or until golden brown. Serve hot. Makes 18 hors d'oeuvre.

Soundtrack of your Life

LIFE HAS A RHYTHM

When you watch television, films and special events, it's music that sets the scene. The soundtrack helps create the emotions, pace and rhythm of each moment. It's what makes you excited during a car chase and uplifted during a romantic moment. Why should your life be any different?

Studies show that music affects behavior. The music you listen to can make you work faster or slower, and feel more or less relaxed. By adding the right music to your daily activities, you can invent the right soundtrack for your life. From cooking and cleaning to eating and exercising, selecting music that complements your experiences creates a better rhythm for your day.

CLEANING UP

Doing chores around the house can be a lot more enjoyable and get finished much more quickly when it's done to the sounds of a favorite high-energy song. Try choosing upbeat melodies as the background for chores. You'll establish a quicker pace to get work done. If the whole family is doing chores together, time can be divided into thirty minute slots where each person gets a chance to choose the music.

MIND AND BODY

Working out is not just about the body, but about the brain as well. Playing the right music is important for both. For some aerobic workouts the right music might be fast and exciting, while for a yoga session it may be classical and calming. Choose the right soundtrack for your heart and head.

AT THE OFFICE

The rhythm of your office life varies throughout the day. Sometimes you need to get things done quickly, and other times you need to slow down and focus. In general, new music keeps your brain active and your energy up. When you need to concentrate, try familiar songs that aren't too complex and have few or no lyrics.

TURN ON YOUR MUSIC. EVERY ROOM IN A HOME AND EVERY TIME OF DAY HAS A PURPOSE.

DINNER AND DANCING

Every dinner party has a rhythm and your music should underscore it. Will your music be loud and fast, or soft and mellow? Or will it be both? Perhaps some classical music during dinner, followed by jazz music for dancing. You're in charge of the sounds that create the mood.

The rhythm of your day is as unique as your DNA. Shouldn't your music be too? Your life has a soundtrack. Start using it to your advantage — and enjoying it.

RELAX

Music can turn an otherwise hectic moment into something more peaceful. Research shows that when the music in

a supermarket slows down, shoppers move through the store more slowly and spend more time looking at the food in each aisle. Use this knowledge to slow down your own activities and get the most out of them. Try listening to relaxing music as you're cooking dinner for your family and spending time with your kids. You may be able to set a slower pace – and find a relaxing moment where you didn't know there was one.

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green space

BY AMY ELBERT PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER KRUMHARDT

company's coming

CLEAN THE HOUSE AND PAMPER GUESTS WITH **OH-SO-PRETTY ECO PRODUCTS**

College kids are home on break (and bringing significant others), in-laws are planning to visit, and drop-in guests are a given. As you prepare for the holidays, be kind to your company—and the planet—by using cleaning supplies, furnishings, fabrics, and even flowers that are made or grown with the environment in mind.

To welcome those visitors, designer Alegre Ramos, owner of Green and Greener, a Los Angeles general store and design center that specializes in ecologically responsible products, ➤

1 organic cotton fabric is used to fashion a duvet cover and matching shams. Toss pillows are covered in fabrics made from recycled polyester and waste products such as plastic bottles (robertallendesign.com).

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2 eco-kind roses,

grown with minimal negative impact on the land and workers, meet VeriFlora standards (organicstyle.com). The mouth-blown glass lamp topped with a raffia shade (jamieyoung.com) is lighted with an efficient compact fluorescent bulb.

3 a wool rug

is a natural insulator that helps keep a room cozy. Stepping on the fat loops of this Tuva loom wool rug from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams feels like getting a mini foot massage (mgbwhome.com).

4 wallpaper

made of natural materials with wheat-based glues and environmentally safe dyeing processes comes in sisal, grasscloth, and paper weaves (fschumacher.com).

5 a sleigh bed

and bedside table, both designed with sustainable materials, are from the Pure Sustainable Luxury collection by Edward Ferrell/Lewis Mittman (ef-lm.com). Snuggle up with a puffy silk throw (kumikookoon.com).

suggests making their beds using linens made of bamboo fiber or organic cotton. Alegre, an accredited LEED designer (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), explains that organic cotton meets federal standards for environmentally sound farming and processing methods, while bamboo is fast-growing and renewable.

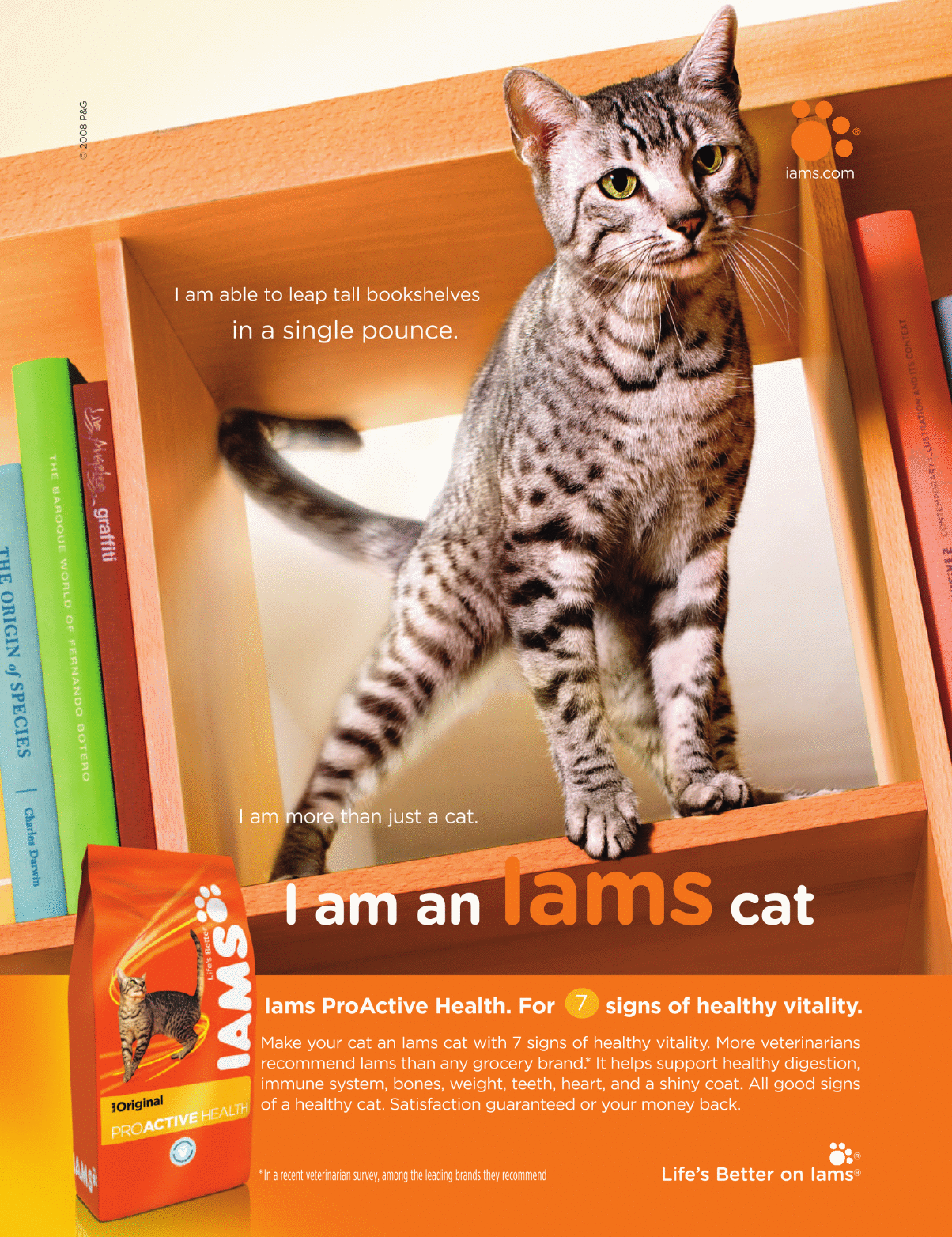
She advises laundering new linens before using to remove any dust from manufacturing or shipping processes. Press cottons with a hot iron or line-dry in the sun. "Sun-dried whites are way whiter, and line-drying adds a nice crispness," Alegre says.

Polyester bed pillows can be replaced by those filled with buckwheat hulls or kapok, a fiber made from the flower seeds of a rain ➤

give and **take**

During the holiday season, welcome special overnight guests with a thoughtful gift like this luxe bamboo-fiber robe (vivaterra.com) bundled with silk slippers (kumikookoon.com). It's a cozy and environmentally conscious present that a visitor can use and then take home to enjoy all year long.

Hostess gifts can have a green theme, too. Assemble a green "starter" kit to say thank you by filling a reusable bag (walkerbags.com)—it can be used later for toting groceries—with eco-friendly and sweet-smelling laundry (vaskaproducts.com; fruits-passion.com) and cleaning products (timothy-corrigan.com/tchome).



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6 freshen up

freshen up with soap and toiletries made using natural ingredients (ecowise.com), or try razors and toothbrushes with handles of recycled plastics (green-and-greener.com).

7 scented candles

scented candles set a serene scene and won't emit toxic fumes. They are made with all natural vegetable and soy wax and lead-free wicks (ralphlauren.com).

8 lovely linens

lovely linens that are 100 percent organic cotton—spa-perfect towels (ralphlaurenhome.com) and retro-styled bedding (ploverorganic.com)—prove you don't have to give up color or pattern to go green.

forest fruit tree. "Buckwheat pillows have a nice weight and really support your neck," according to the designer.

In the guest bath, she suggests using fluffy towels—also made from bamboo or organic cotton. "You might pay a bit more for organic cotton towels, but they'll last longer and they're much softer."

To create a relaxing mood in a guest room, Alegre brings in oil-scented soy-wax candles and bouquets of cut flowers from her garden. Too cold for your garden? Evergreen branches are pretty, too, and fill a room with a fresh scent.

And set out a basket of toiletries for guests. "Most areas have locally made soaps, and it's nice to expose visitors to something they might not have at home," notes the eco advocate. "Put together a little basket with soaps and a loofah, and then let guests take it home when they leave."

For more information, see sources on page 112

greening the cleaning

Opt for nontoxic and biodegradable household cleaners, and avoid nasty fumes and toxic waste water. Pantry staples such as vinegar, baking soda, and club soda can tackle most chores. Mix water and white vinegar (about 70 percent water and 30 percent vinegar) and keep on hand for daily cleanups. Mix 1 cup of club soda with ½ cup baking soda, and you have a great stainless-steel cleaner. There is also a wide selection of eco-friendly and effective commercial cleaning products. Look for those that don't contain sulfates, phosphates, artificial fragrances, or colors. Frequent cleanups are the best way to avoid the need for heavy-duty cleansers. For floors, vacuum with the cordless and energy-efficient Pivot Floor Vac from Black & Decker, *above right.* Damp-mop wood floors with the Bona Hardwood Floor Mop, *above left,* which sprays an eco-safe cleaner onto the floor and wipes it clean with a micro-fiber pad.

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THE KENO BROTHERS SEE DEPRESSION GLASS **FROM A NEW ANGLE**

twisted beauty

BY DORIS ATHINEOS
PRODUCED BY LEIGH KENO AND LESLIE KENO

A 1928 yellow fishbowl in the style of Ruba Rombic was made by Kenneth Haley, son of Ruba Rombic creator Reuben Haley.

PORTRAIT: HELEN NORMAN; FISHBOWL COURTESY THE KIRKLAND MUSEUM

Best known for going with the grain—preferably aged Cuban mahogany—Leigh and Leslie Keno light up about edgy Ruba Rombic glass. Designed in 1928 by Reuben Haley, who took his cues from Cubist painters, Ruba Rombic reminds Leslie of the dazzling quartz crystal chunks he keeps on a table by his bed.

"Leigh and I used to prospect for minerals at the Herkimer Diamond Mine when we were teenagers," recalls Leslie, who grew up in New York's Mohawk Valley. "Ruba Rombic has the same transparency and faceted form as quartz crystal." And, notes Leigh, the glassware looks good from any angle, much like the creations—including the sofa he owns—of Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid.

A talented designer, Haley (1872–1933) looked to Picasso's sharply splintered absinthe glass for inspiration instead of to patterns from the past. In 1928, he received patents for an angular plate, vase, and whiskey bottle. He turned to Consolidated Lamp and Glass Company, a glass factory for whom he designed other lines. But the glacier-like glassware received a chilly reception as the economy hit the skids. Retailers couldn't find an audience for Cubist candlesticks and decanters despite a slick sales brochure.

"People had no money," says Depression-glass dealer Rosemary Trietsch, who owns 160 Ruba pieces she will never part with. The name didn't help sales either. It comes from *ruba'i,* a Persian poetry form, and from *rhomboid,* a geometry term ➤

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cubed glass: "It's not minimalism because all the angles are decorative," says Leigh Keno. The Cubist art that designer Reuben Haley saw at the 1925 Paris International Exposition inspired his Ruba Rombic glassware.

describing an irregular form with no right angles. The Ruba Rombic line crashed along with the stock market and ceased production before the Consolidated factory closed in 1932. "It was ahead of its time and ended too soon," mourns Trietsch, who is writing a book on Consolidated, which was located in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania (a good place to search for the glass). "At most," she says, "3,500 pieces were made."

And later overlooked by glass collectors, who were more impressed with names like Tiffany and Steuben. To them, Depression glass was a downer. "They never recognized this as art glass," says Trietsch. Though it looks as if it were carved with a scalpel, "shallow pieces like plates were pressed, and others were blown into metal molds," she explains. "Each piece was hand-finished." And unlike other Depression glass, Ruba Rombic was never cheap. A vase, for instance, cost $5 during the Great Depression.

Today, the easiest colors to find—smoky topaz and jungle green—sell for less than pieces in jade, honey, and lilac. Those colors required a multiple-step process known as casing. "Cased glass has more light play, depth, and dimension," Trietsch explains.

SMOKED DECANTER COURTESY THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS; GREEN DECANTER COURTESY RAGO AUCTIONS; VASE COURTESY THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART; LAMP DOMES COURTESY THE KIRKLAND MUSEUM

Ruba Rombic glass reminds me of dazzling quartz crystal

—LESLIE KENO

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN RUBA

- **Lighting fixtures**, *above*, plates, glasses, pitchers, trays, and other tableware.
- **Small black-paper labels** with gold block letters that read "Ruba Rombic—an epic in modern art." (But not many labels survived.)
- **Look-alike pieces** created by Pennsylvania-based Kopp Glass Company (in Swissvale) and Phoenix Glass Company (in Monaca).
- **Condition:** Avoid nicks and chips, especially on decanter and perfume stops.
- **Color:** Ruba Rombic comes in 12 hues; smoky topaz and jungle green are the easiest to find.

This Ruba Rombic vase is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Prices today reflect collectors in hot pursuit. A smoky topaz or jungle green decanter goes for about $2,000, while shot glasses sell for $200. A cased-glass decanter can bring $5,000 with matching shot glasses $400 each. "The tray is the holy grail," says Trietsch. "Most broke or were separated from their matching decanter." A jade green perfume bottle, *left,* hit the auction block in October at Rago in Lambertville, New Jersey. To find out if it sold for its estimate ($1,200 to $1,800), tap into ragoarts.com.

To see more Ruba Rombic, visit the Kirkland Museum in Denver, Colorado, where director Hugh Grant displays the country's largest public stash (about 45 pieces). "It's daring design for Depression glass," notes Grant, who finds Ruba at flea markets, local dealers, and at the Rocky Mountain Depression Glass Show in Castle Rock, Colorado (rmdgs.com).

Or you can tune in to the 1930 Laurel and Hardy film *Blotto* and cry over broken glass. "Collectors cringe when the boys pretend to get drunk in a speakeasy and start smashing the Ruba Rombic," says Trietsch. ■

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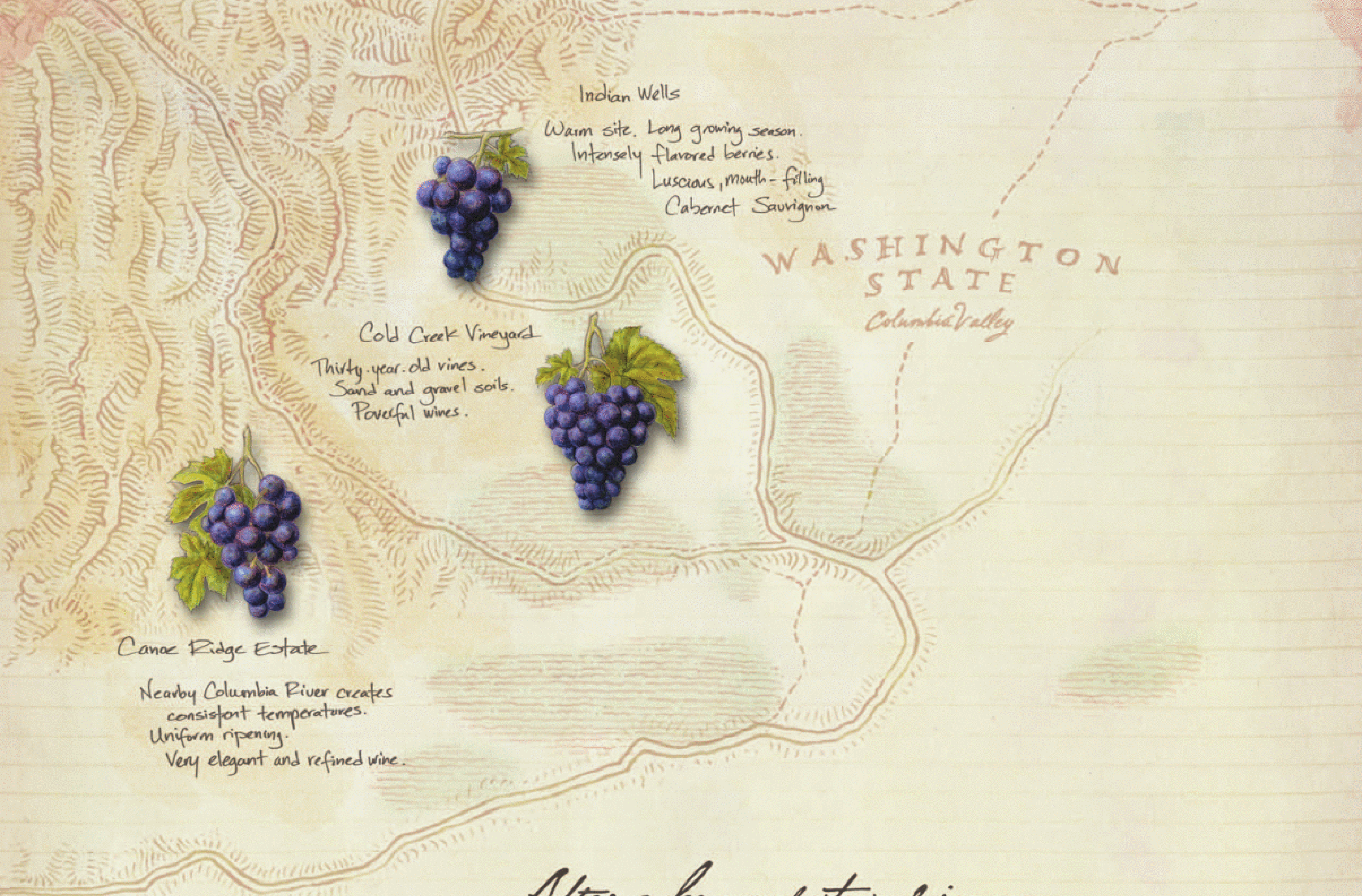

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GREAT expectations

IT'S A COLORFUL ADVENTURE TO PREP A MASSACHUSETTS COLONIAL **FOR A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

BY KRISSA ROSSBUND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE BUCK PRODUCED BY ESTELLE BOND GURALNICK

The classic library, complete with built-in bookcases, exhibits a striking, dark-hued holiday garland on the mantel. **Opposite:** Peter and Catherine Malone with daughter Charlie, 15, and son Ian, 13. **Preceding page:** Magnolia leaves, pears, and copper-colored glass balls create the masculine library garland.

When Catherine "Cat" and Peter Malone bought a classic 1910 Colonial Revival house in Milton, Massachusetts, in 2005, they made the transaction with the understanding that grand festivities to celebrate the holiday season would be part of their almost 100-year-old new home's tradition.

Delighted to inherit a residence with such a gold standard, the Malones embraced the challenge of hosting a great celebration with gusto. Three years into their occupancy, the family's Christmas open house has become an eagerly awaited event among their family and friends. "We have about 150 guests," says Cat. "Some are friends from our new neighborhood, and others travel from Maine and Cape Cod."

Anticipating a design makeover—as most new occupants do—Cat and Peter recognized that whatever colors, fabrics, and furnishings were selected to beautify their home, ultimately jovial guests would be the final accessory, so comfort was essential. The structure itself, with generous rooms around a large central hall, already encouraged free movement from room to room.

The Malones called on Boston-area designer Gerald Pomeroy, who focused on aesthetic trimmings since the skeleton of the house was already packed with interesting architectural details and was in great shape. "The children plus a busy social life demanded

an unfussy, livable decor," says Pomeroy. "But I also wanted to reflect the couple's interest in antiques, art, and culture."

Recognizing that his plan should be youthful and sophisticated for the Malones—while tantalizing their guests with cheerful surprises—Pomeroy saturated the rooms with explosions of vibrant color that are intensified at Christmastime by fragrant greenery, sparkling ornaments, and bundles of fresh flowers. Local floral designers Daniel Lopez-Ospina and Jeb Taylor created decorations that are traditional, festive, and color-keyed to each individual room.

The living room palette gets straight to the point with intensely colored fabrics that pop against yellow walls. Linen in gold and coral follows the graceful curves of the window cornice. In front of the fireplace, facing loveseats are covered in an elaborate coral wool embroidered with a chinoiserie floral motif, and a pair of English Regency chairs are cushioned with silk stripes. The seating pieces share a cream-colored tufted ottoman, and an English carpet underscores the room's cheery warmth. The room's colors blend beautifully with the Christmas tree and with the neoclassical mantel that's dressed with fresh greenery, bowls of persimmons, and ruby-glass ornaments in crystal bowls.

The architectural envelope of original wainscoting, crown molding, fireplace surround, and crystal chandelier in the dining

The living room's rich palette reflects Cat Malone's affinity for fabric and color. The whole house showcases her vivid taste.
Opposite top: In the sunroom, a pair of damask-covered ottomans slide underneath a bamboo console table when not in use.
Opposite bottom: The sunny mudroom, with its brick floor, is softened by a Windsor bench with a plaid seat.

In the dining room, shiny gold raw silk descends in simple gathered panels at the windows, a lavish accent against vibrant coral walls. **Opposite top**: Fresh flowers are a colorful surprise in the dining room. Orchids fashioned into topiaries stand high on the mantel; other flowers are tucked among glass ornaments on the Christmas tree. **Opposite bottom:** The wide central hallway, with its pretty sofa and elaborate window treatments, provides additional seating during convivial holiday gatherings.

An array of patterns and textures keeps the master bedroom warm and cozy even though the blue-and-white color scheme leans toward the cool side. On the walls, subtle stripes in two shades of white offer a contrast to the fluid chinoiserie linen bedskirt and draperies. The mantel features greenery, pinecones, and glass balls that are casually interrupted by silver finials in varying heights.

Opposite top: A chair and ottoman at the window are upholstered in white-and-beige crewel and topped with a bright indigo mohair throw.

Opposite bottom: The Malones' 1910 Colonial Revival home is always on standby for a gathering.

room guided Pomeroy's choice of vivid color for the walls. The chinoiserie silk-on-paper in bright coral with lavender accents is positioned against moldings painted a warm beige. "The dining room is one of the most important rooms during the holidays," says Pomeroy. "Guests come here right after they've arrived, and the dramatic room communicates a sense of excitement." It's also in the dining room where guests are greeted by the Malone's biggest Christmas tree, one that is wrapped in tiny white lights and studded with small clusters of coral glass balls, larger gold balls, and fresh coral and gold Dendrobium orchids. The same flowers glow in an extravagant mantel decoration: a lush garland of the orchids interwoven with magnolia leaves.

The master bedroom's palette takes a quiet departure from the bold, warm tones of the public spaces. The bedroom Christmas tree, decorated with mercury glass and blue silk balls, stands in a white cast-iron garden urn.

Although they've only lived in the house a short time, Cat and Peter have created many memories. "I want my family to feel warmth, joy, and beauty with family and friends during the holidays but also in those moments with just the four of us."

Interior designer: Gerald Pomeroy

Floral designers: Daniel Lopez-Ospina and Jeb Taylor

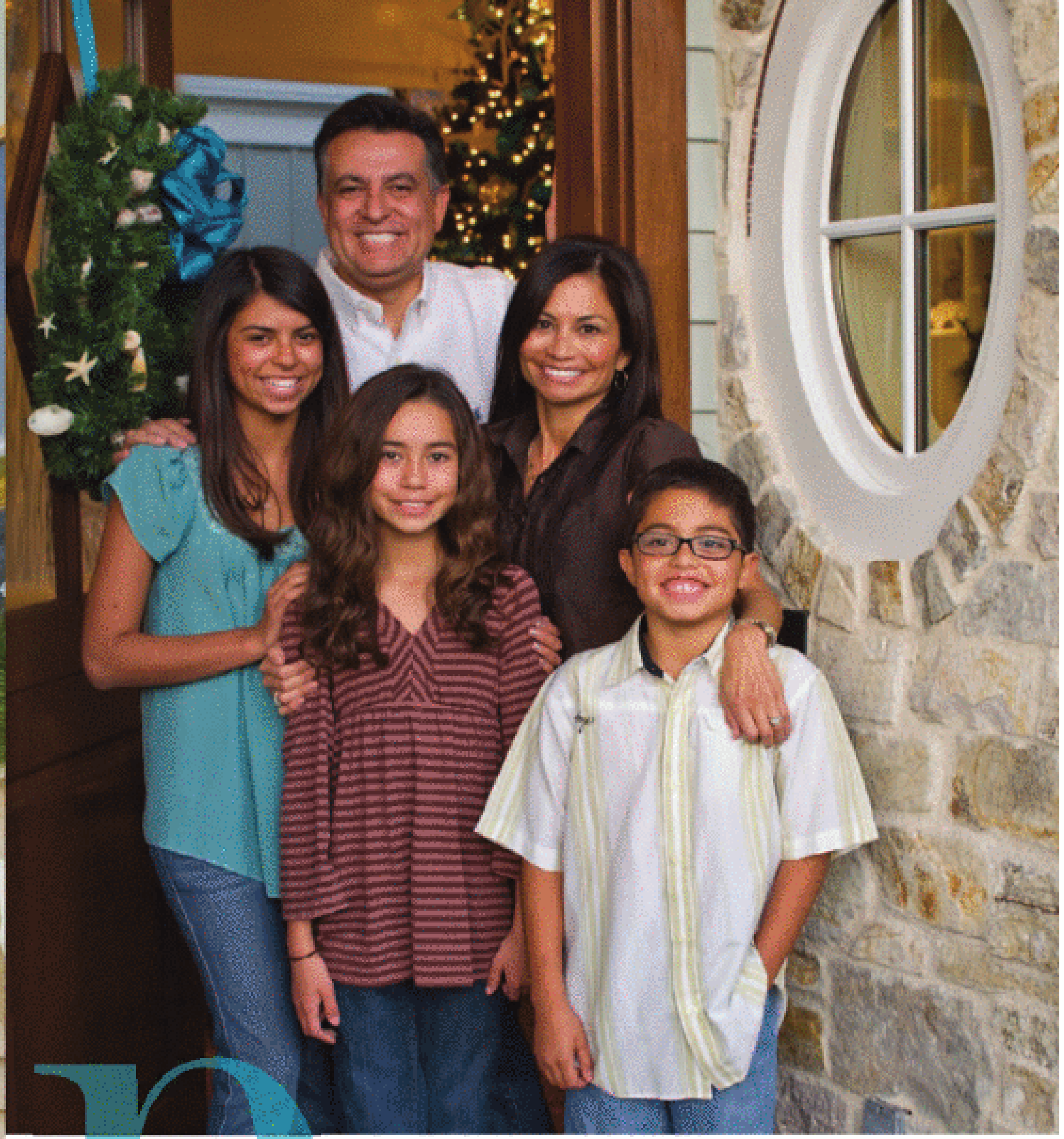
For more information, see sources on page 112

making MAGIC

LIGHTED BOAT PARADES, JOVIAL FAMILY DINNERS, AND MELT-IN-YOUR-MOUTH TREATS PRODUCE HOLIDAY **MEMORIES TO CHERISH**

BY AMY ELBERT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDMUND BARR
PRODUCED BY ANDREA CAUGHEY

Blue holiday decorations in the living room are in keeping with the house's color palette. Wood floors and a mahogany barrel arch leading to the kitchen contrast with the white ceilings and trim. **Top right:** Tony and Tricia Sanchez with their children: Samantha, 14; Sabrina, 12; and Tony G., 10. **Preceding pages:** Colors of the raffia-upholstered side chairs and slipcovered wing chairs were inspired by sand and water.



Powdered-sugar smiles are a Christmas Eve tradition at Tricia and Tony Sanchez's California home. While their three children—Samantha, Sabrina, and Tony G.—shake packages under the tree and struggle to stay awake for midnight Mass, Tony cooks up a batch of *buñuelos,* a Mexican treat of phyllo dough topped with maple syrup and powdered sugar.

Another Christmas Eve tradition is taking an evening boat ride to see the glittering lights on the fancy watercraft and homes lining the bay at Newport Beach. "We all bundle up—it might be a freezing 62 or 63 degrees!—we get our hot chocolate and hot toddies, and walk to the beach," Tricia relates. "The water is so calm; no one else is out. We may not have snow, but it's magical here this time of year."

Tricia and Tony seem to have plenty of magic in their lives. With three young children, the family was outgrowing its previous Newport Beach home. It was then that an elderly neighbor knocked on the door and said he was selling his house. "He told Tony, 'You've always been so nice, putting up my Christmas lights every year. Do you want to buy my house?' " says Tricia. That was on her birthday in 2004.

The Sanchezes bought the property, which was closer to the beach, and began planning a new home for the site. (The original house was about 60 years old and required too much work to make renovation possible, Tricia explains.) To oversee the project, they chose Cynthia Childs, who brought not only technical expertise (she's a licensed architect and civil engineer) but also valuable mom know-how (she's raised two children while balancing a career). "Cynthia asked all the right questions," says Tricia, "like where do the kids put their backpacks when they walk in. She totally gets it. She understands that a home has to be beautiful, but also functional."

Because they love living close to the water, Tricia and Tony asked Childs for a home with a beach style. "She wanted something that was happy and light," says Childs. "He wanted a home that made him feel like he was on vacation." Childs pleased them both, designing a Key West- and Caribbean-inspired two-level, nearly 4,000-square-foot home, with walls of windows and an inner courtyard that brings the outdoors in.

"The house feels quite spacious even though it's on a tight lot," Childs says. Ten-foot-high ceilings and an open floor plan on the main level contribute to the roomy feeling. Rather than walls, Childs used architectural detailing on the ceilings to define spaces. Two X-motif transoms bordering a coffered ceiling create an entry corridor that visually separates the living and dining rooms, which have board-and-beam ceilings.

The spacious feeling is further enhanced by two 12-foot walls with bifold glass doors—one in the kitchen and another in the living room—that open to an interior courtyard complete with fireplace. "The walls just go away, so that the outdoor space becomes part of the home," Childs says.

The couple's collection of contemporary art—much of it with water and beach themes—provides blasts of bright color and drives the house's blue-and-green color palette. "The colors in the interiors relate to the artwork," says Brenda Eastman, a Newport Beach interior designer who worked with the Sanchezes. Golden taupe armchairs in the living room repeat colors in a painting of California's Crystal Cove beach hanging above the limestone fireplace. Turquoise blue glassware in the dining room cabinets echoes the blues in *Pool at Noon,* a painting by Glen Ness commissioned by the Sanchezes, which hangs in the dining room.

Walls are painted silver-sage, a color Tricia spotted at a Restoration Hardware store. "I used the color on all the walls except the kids' rooms. It's so soothing," Tricia says. She even had an exterior paint mixed to match.

Eastman focused on scale and simplicity, introducing carefully edited furnishings and accessories to complement but not compete with artwork. "This was a house that needed not a lot of items but significant pieces," she notes. Four large glass

Above: Bifold glass doors open the kitchen to the courtyard. These "disappearing walls" in both the kitchen and the living room welcome California breezes and are ideal when entertaining. The large kitchen island has an alder-wood base and a marble top with a chunky 4-inch edge. Cabinet doors with wide, flat louvers are Caribbean inspired. **Opposite, top left:** The Texas shellstone fireplace surround is imbedded with hundreds of fossilized shells. Built-in shelves next to the fireplace repeat the arched niches above the cabinets in the dining room. **Opposite, bottom right:** A banquette curves around a round table at one end of the kitchen. To the left of the banquette is a nearly invisible door that leads to a small pantry and home office.

Tucked under the stairs is a narrow space that Tony calls his "tequila room." Only about 4x8 feet, the room has lighted glass shelves and wood storage racks for displaying choice tequilas, tequila glasses, and serviceware. Walls and a barrel ceiling are lined with small slate tiles so the room feels like an old cellar, says architect Cynthia Childs. Tricia prefers wine, so Childs included a wine chiller and wine racks.

a toast to tequila

Too many people remember downing shots of tequila with beer chasers and suffering the consequences the next morning. Mexicans don't drink tequila that way, but instead sip it like a fine brandy or cognac, says Californian Tony Sanchez, whose family came from Mexico. Tony often entertains guests with mini lectures on the fine points of drinking the liquor from his wood-paneled "tequila room." Serve tequila in a brandy snifter so it can be swirled and the color and aroma appreciated, he says. "First sniff it," he advises. "Next, take a little mouthful and let it sit on the tip of your tongue so you can taste the aroma of it. Then let it fall back slowly." Tony prefers aged, amber tequilas that have a smooth taste. A couple favorites are Cazadores Añejo ("a great tequila for a good price") and Don Julio 1942.

bottles sit in niches above cabinets in the dining room, and a barrel light fixture hangs above the table. "Tricia didn't want a typical chandelier that was too fussy," says the designer, "so we went with something more handsome and a bit contemporary."

While many of the stained wood architectural details are mahogany, the floors are a slightly distressed-looking walnut. "We wanted the warmer, homier look that you get with the walnut," Childs says. Plus the distressed surfaces help hide the sand the family tracks in during the summer, adds Tricia.

In the kitchen, a large island with prep sink and under-counter refrigerator drawers allows the family to prepare meals together. Snuggled against the stair wall at one end of the kitchen is a cozy curved banquette plumped with blue and gold pillows where family members eat most of their meals.

Furniture, fabrics, and finishes are all easy-care and kid friendly. "I'm a neat person, and I wanted a house that would be easy to keep clean but still look pretty," Tricia says. "People walk in our house and say it feels comfortable."

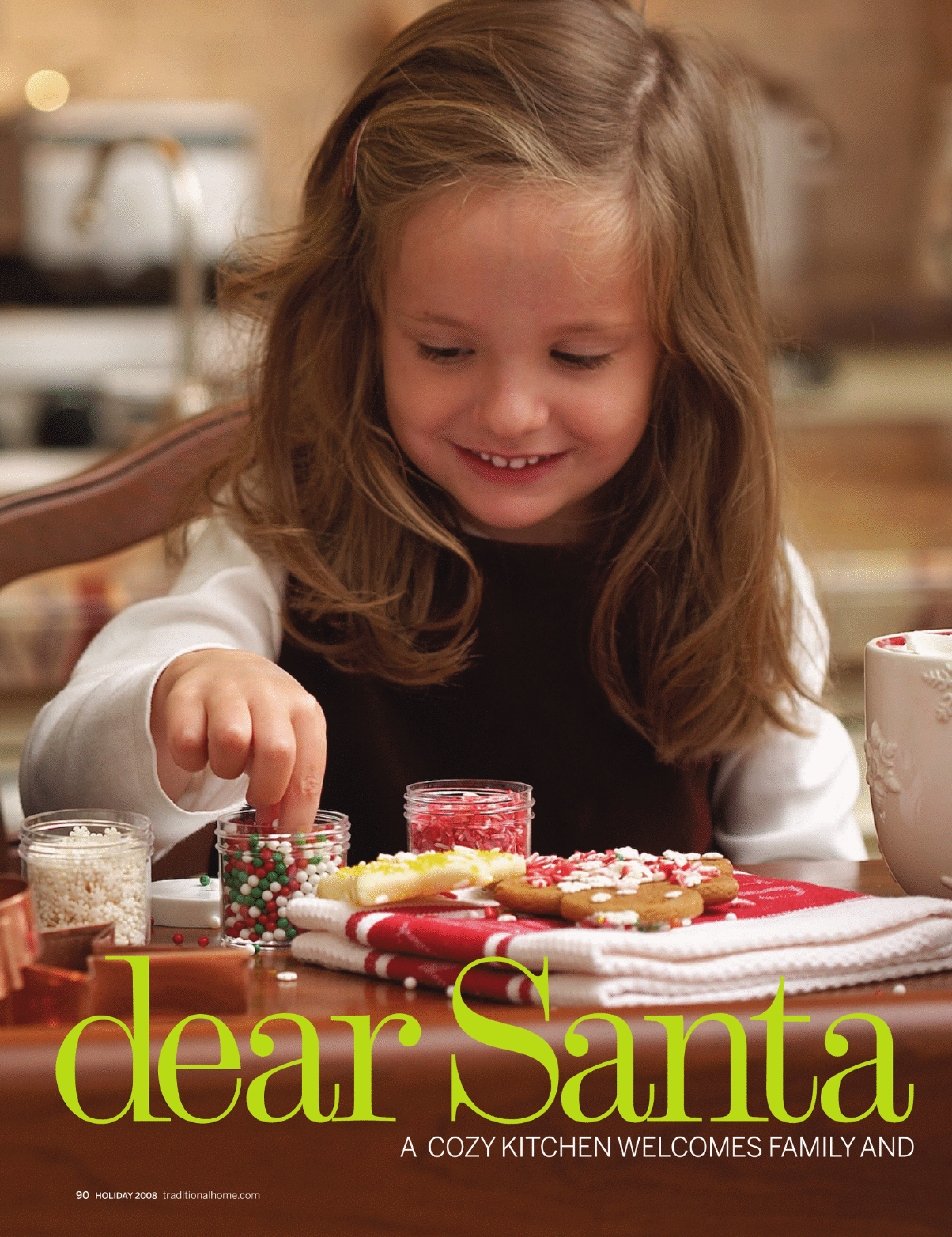
Just a two-minute walk from the beach, it's the everyday vacation home Tony and Tricia hoped for. "Tony said he wanted to be able to pour a cup of coffee at home, walk to the beach, and have his coffee still be warm," she says. Now he can.

Architect: Cynthia Childs

Interior designer: Brenda Eastman

For more information, see sources on page 112

Opposite: A white vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom is accented by mahogany wood beams. The room opens to a second-level balcony on the front of the house. "When I walk out, I look out on the tops of the palm trees," Tricia says. **Top left:** The same richly patterned marble that was used on the kitchen island was used in the master bath. The brown veining complements the dark wood floors. **Top right:** Tony G. wanted a "surfer dude" bedroom, complete with a surfboard above the bed. The built-in bed features a drawer for holding his toys.
Above: Mahogany shutters on the windows and a fixed horizontal shutter shading the front porch reflect Caribbean and Key West house styles.



dear Santa

A COZY KITCHEN WELCOMES FAMILY AND

BY AMY ELBERT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAL VENERA
PRODUCED BY SARAH ALBA

SWEETENS THE HOLIDAYS

Red and green sprinkles dot the floor, and the kitchen counter is cluttered with cookie cutters. Sophie Durn patiently shows her younger brother, Aidan, where to put the red cinnamon candies for the gingerbread boy's buttons, but he'd rather sample them.

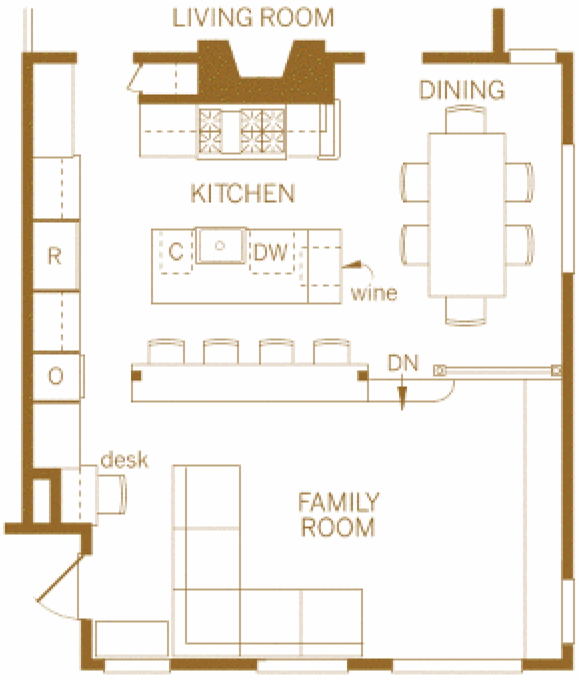
The kitchen is a warm hub of activity at Sandi and Dan Durn's California home. On Christmas Eve, the Durn children (still true believers in Santa) set out a plate of their homemade cookies for Santa alongside a "Dear Santa" note.

The family renovated the kitchen of their San Anselmo home in 2005, anticipating such gatherings. "We wanted an open living space where the kids could play while we cooked and entertained," Dan says. "We spend all our time here."

Staying within the existing footprint, the Durns opened the kitchen to an adjacent dining room and to the family room, which is one step down from the kitchen. They installed new cream-colored cabinets, appliances, an island, and a bar-style peninsula with seating that overlooks the family room.

To ensure the plan was in keeping with the house's Craftsman styling, the Durns consulted Kirk Hillman, the architect who had renovated the house in 1996 for previous owners. "We wanted to keep the integrity of the original design," Sandi says, "but we needed a better layout."

Sandi and Dan Durn renovated the kitchen in their 1940 home to create an open floor plan and efficient work zones.
Left: The Durns and their children: Aidan, 3, and Sophie, 5.
Preceding pages: Sophie decorates cookies at the stool-high snack bar in the refurbished kitchen.



Hillman reconfigured the 205-square-foot kitchen, adding an island to improve flow. "From the island we can see and talk to our kids in the family room," Sandi says. "We also moved the range with the custom hood to the back wall so that it's a focal point in the kitchen when seen from the family room."

Parallel to the island is a bar-height eating area where the children often snack and work on art projects. "The cherry top on the bar matches the dining table and warms up the kitchen," says Stacey Lapuk, a kitchen designer who helped the Durns with the redesign. Coffered ceilings, beadboard paneling, artisan tiles, and ivory cabinets with a subtle glaze contribute to the cozy feel. Countertops are Sarancolin, a French marble Sandi chose for its rich color and "warm, earthy feeling."

The 133-square-foot dining room faces a wine cooler built into the island. The height of the built-in was raised to conceal food prep mess from those seated at the dining table.

The open floor plan makes for convivial dinners on Christmas Day, Dan says, with adults gathering in the kitchen, dining area, and family room. And the kids? "They run in circles."

Architect: Kirk Hillman **Kitchen designer:** Stacey Lapuk

For more information, see sources on page 112

Above: The neutral color scheme is accented by decorative tiles on the range backsplash, an etched pewter panel on the vent hood, and bin-style pulls. **Top left:** Aidan and Sophie often eat and play at the cherry-topped bar that looks into the family room. **Left:** A built-in wine storage unit divides the kitchen from the dining room.

Floor space was captured from an adjoining family room to enlarge the dining room. To make the room cozier, the too-high ceilings were lowered with boxed beams, and beadboard wainscoting was applied to walls.

BY CANDACE ORD MANROE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON BEALL
PRODUCED BY HILARY ROSE

SUE RUGE TRANSFORMED HEARTACHE INTO

into the light

A NEW HOME FILLED WITH **LIGHT AND LOVE**

S Sue Ruge would never have envisioned this house as her family's dream home—divorce had stained that portrait of loving husband and wife living carefree with their three school-age children in a big vintage house in Hinsdale, Illinois—but this newer, smaller home in the same town is in every way a dream come true.

When her 25-year marriage ended, Sue had to downsize. The 6,000 square feet of the 1930s home her children had grown up in became exactly twice too much house for her to handle. There was no way she and the kids could maintain its imposing grounds. Instead of hitting a wall, she hit the pavement, canvassing block after block of the area for real estate. She left notes on doors, determined to keep her children within the comfort zone of their old neighborhood and schools.

On a small lot only four blocks from the Ruges' large home, builder Bill Ryan had begun excavation for his own family's residence. Sue and her children were friendly with his wife, the town librarian. The Ryans were moved by Sue's story—and her fortitude. "We had a long talk, and he stopped construction and sold the property to me," says Sue. She retained Ryan as her contractor and later went to work for his company as an "internal customer" who helps brainstorm spec homes.

Preceding pages: Every room in the new home was designed to be used daily. The breakfast room becomes multipurpose with the warm attraction of the fireplace. The antique harlequin-patterned Chinese rug was moved from the owners' previous residence; the new breakfast room was sized to fit the rug.

Top left: The main room combines living and dining for great function. Its coffered ceiling and detailed moldings—all painted white—add to the airiness of the windows. **Above:** The pine armoire reflected in the entry's mirror serves as a coat closet and avoids blocking the windows. The carved German nativity is a family heirloom. **Left:** Sue Ruge with son Nicholas, 18, daughters Mary, 19 (left), and Shannon, 15.

Sue's favorite room in her old home was the den, where she read to her children. She replicated it in the new house and recycled all its furniture and draperies.
Right: The kitchen's traditional cabinetry and beadboard ceilings go airy in white.

There is a lot of good karma about this house and the entire

Sue was adamant that construction of her new home be completed by Christmas 2006. "I wanted my oldest child, Mary, who was then a senior in high school, to be able to spend one Christmas making memories in this house before she went away to college." She met her deadline with a month to spare.

Instead of replicating in miniature the colonial style of the stately house they left behind, Sue chose a breezier, less formal look. Having grown up in Massachusetts, she opted for the shingle-style architecture of the houses on Cape Cod, where she summered as a child. Inside, she wanted hardworking, intimate spaces that were bathed in light. Her team of architects, contractors, and designers honored those goals. They also rallied behind Sue's seemingly quixotic (but in fact, very reasonable) request to build and decorate an exact replica of her favorite room in the old house—its den. "Our goal was to preserve our home and keep our memories close. We weren't looking to erase the past in any way," she says.

The new den appears freshly plucked from the old house, down to its identically proportioned bowed fireplace with paneled surround, black-and-white toile curtains, and sink-down checked chairs. "The architect and carpenters went to the old house and took exact measurements of the room, then literally re-created it here," Sue says. "That den was so important to my children growing up. It was where we curled up with books by the fireplace, and I didn't want to leave those memories behind.

"Recycling the furniture and draperies from the old house saved me a lot of money," she also notes, "but more important, it preserved our home."

One thing she did not want to repeat from her former residence was its wasted spaces. "I was determined not to have

any room we only used a few times a year," Sue explains. Instead of a formal dining room, the new house combines living and dining spaces. "We wanted a fireplace in the dining room, a place to pull up chairs and sit. I believe spaces can either bring you together or draw you apart. These draw us together."

She credits interior designers Barbara Svihla and Olivia Paxton for that success.

"They were my voice to the architects and builders. They made sure all of my old furniture fit and that the measurements from the old house didn't get lost in the building process." Svihla and Paxton also designed all the interior wood moldings. Made crisp with white paint, the moldings and walls exude the inviting airiness Sue desired.

Special pieces from the last house sometimes dictated the size and shape of rooms. A harlequin-patterned Chinese needlepoint rug previously used in the Ruges' formal dining room became the centerpiece of the new house's breakfast room. "The whole size of our kitchen was determined by that rug," laughs Sue. An antique mantel relegated to the basement in the previous house regained its dignity in Sue's new master bedroom.

For their first Christmas in the house, the Ruges had a huge party, inviting old friends, family, and all their new neighbors.

Left: Sue's bedroom is warmed by a mantel salvaged from her old home's basement. "I didn't have a bedroom fireplace in that house, so this one's even better!" **Above:** The home's shingle-style architecture looks especially cozy with a blanket of snow. **Right and below:** Decorating for Christmas is a must, says Sue. "Our newest holiday tradition is inviting every neighbor over for a huge but very casual Christmas party. It's a caroling party, so Nick and a bunch of the neighborhood dads play the piano and everybody sings."

Daughter Mary begin making memories in the new home, just as her mother had hoped. This year, Sue received an e-mail from her, thanking her for that first Christmas and more: "You designing and building our house from such a huge source of pain is just breathtaking—how you could pull something so beautiful out of that experience of divorce. I'm just now able to imagine how much pain you must have been in, and how you focused all your energy on creating something positive for us. You are so strong. You are one in a million."

Architect: John Forehand **Interior designers:** Barbara Svihla and Olivia Paxton

For more information, see sources on page 112

BY KRISSA ROSSBUND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON BEALL
PRODUCED BY EILEEN A. DEYMIER

homemade for the holidays

THIS DELAWARE FAMILY'S CHRISTMAS IS **ALWAYS**

MADE FROM SCRATCH

For those who seldom entertain, the tasks that go along with planning an event—hand-lettering place cards and topping hors d'oeuvres with a uniform number of caviar eggs—may seem as challenging as searching for a perfect last-minute gift on Christmas Eve. But for a master hostess like Jennifer Abramczyk, there's nothing more exciting than transforming her and husband Jon's 1928 Colonial residence into a homemade Christmas adventure for a family that offers hospitality nonstop.

The Abramczyks serendipitously stumbled upon their Wilmington, Delaware, house nine years ago. Situated in the same subdivision three blocks away from their much smaller home, it was built the same year. As a couple who loves to entertain, extra space was at the top of their wish list. When they learned that the owners of the larger home they admired wanted to downsize—voilà: the two families swapped residences.

After relocating, Jon and Jennifer decided structural alterations should come before aesthetic touches. "This place was built when houses were staffed," says Jennifer. "And since I am the staff, a number of things had to change." They chose architect John Milner, whose firm specializes in restoring and adapting historic structures. The house was in good shape, with large living and dining rooms and enough bedrooms and baths. But Jennifer, an accomplished cook undaunted by serving dinner for 40, needed an expansive kitchen plus a butler's pantry where she could house a massive collection of china, crystal, and serving pieces.

After Milner completed the addition, the next step was to add vitality to the interiors, using plenty of blue and yellow, the couple's favorite colors. A presentation that Jennifer attended at the nearby Winterthur Museum led her to the design team of Courtney Coleman and Bill Brockschmidt. The duo seemed to understand color, lush fabrics, and tradition, but in a 21st-

Right: Jon and Jennifer Abramczyk host many events throughout the year at their 1928 brick Colonial home, including an annual Christmas dinner party.
Opposite: In the living room, wooden ornaments crafted by Jennifer's mother hang from the home's most spectacular Christmas tree. Jon's childhood train set works its way around the tree's base, adding nostalgia.
Above: An atypical holiday color scheme of marine blue and yellow adds to the festive spirit enlivening the rooms.
Preceding pages: Lemons and greenery are combined in pyramid form to create miniature citrus trees on the table. The dining room can seat 24 guests, making formal dinners grand and special.

National Gallery of Art

The Abramczyk house is filled with decorations handmade by members of their family—like the garland, wreath, and needlepoint stockings that add Christmas joy to the living room mantel.

Right: A tree adorned with dried hydrangeas and berries is set by the architect-designed fireplace. **Above:** The kitchen is the nucleus for party planning. Jennifer borrowed a tip from her grandmother to ensure no guest is served the same menu twice. "I make a list of who is invited and the menu that was served, so repeat guests are always surprised." **Left:** An exterior space was incorporated and enclosed in the renovation, providing the family with a casual, light-filled eating area. **Below:** Jon and Jennifer with daughters Raley, 12, and Annie, 9. Creations such as a tree made of toy blocks and miniature wooden ornaments add to the personality of the Abramczyk Christmas.

century way that is comfortable for the children—Raley, 12, and Annie, 9. The results are refreshing all year, and most especially at Christmas, when the tried and true red and green combination gets the old heave-ho in favor of the house's yellow, marine blue, gray, and coral color palette.

As the holidays approach, Jennifer gathers Christmas supplies. She adorns an oversized wreath in the living room with dried hydrangeas, pomegranates, oranges, and magnolia leaves. In the entry hall, a magnolia garland winding up the balustrade has lemons and coral ribbon. "With the fruits and magnolia leaves, I get in my share of Southern references," explains Jennifer, a Texan married to a Pennsylvanian of Polish heritage. "Our holidays combine Southern, New England, and Polish traditions."

Music and food are at the heart of their holidays. At the living room's vintage piano, Jon, an accomplished pianist, plays carols and guests sing along. In the dining room, where walls and leather chair seats are a saturated marine blue, Jennifer festoons her chandelier with yellow satin ribbons. "I call it the Christmas Maypole," she laughs.

Cooking with others is part of their entertaining, so they need an efficient space. "I frequently invite girlfriends over to cook one main meal and several side dishes together," Jennifer says. And at Christmas, her large working space is key for her creations, which include a special cookie tree.

During the holidays, Jennifer and Jon achieve their primary goal: creating memories and traditions for themselves and their children. "We make ornaments—like characters that show our girls' soccer numbers or heroes from their favorite stories," says Jennifer. "We work hard to make our Christmas our own."

Architect: John Milner

Interior designers: Courtney Coleman and Bill Brockschmidt

For more information, see sources on page 112

Reader's Resource

For more information about the stories shown in this issue, contact the professionals and sources listed here. Contact information has been verified, but we cannot guarantee the availability of items or services. No information is available about items not listed.

Pages 30—36

WORKING FROM HOME

Interior designer: Annie Selke, The Annie Selke Companies, 125 Pecks Rd., Pittsfield, MA 01201; 800/442-8157, annieselke.com. The Annie Selke Companies include: Pine Cone Hill, pineconehill.com; Dash & Albert Rug Co., dashandalbert.com; Potluck Studios, potluckstudios.com.
Pages 30—31. Living room, window view—**Chairs** ("Just Right Wing Chair" #7010-CH): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Fabric** ("Shalini"/Taupe Raspberry); **pink pillow** ("Esha"/Raspberry, Pink): Annie Selke Home, available at Calico Corners/ Calico Home, 800/213-6366, calicocorners.com. **Drum table; vase:** owner's collection. Annie's bedroom—**Wallpaper** ("Fuchsia"/White #7506-06, by Colefax and Fowler): Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, cowtan.com, trade only. **Rug** ("East Star"): Dash & Albert Rug Co., 800/442-8157, trade only. **Table** to left ("Invisible Table" #7685-11): Hickory Chair, 800/349-4579, hickorychair.com. **Table** to right ("Atlas Square Side Table"/Gold Leaf #A324E-GS); **bed** ("Canopy Metal Bed"/ Gold Leaf #A520Q-GS): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Sheets** ("Lyall"/Citrus); **duvet** ("Gianna"/Leaf): Pine Cone Hill, 800/442-8157, pineconehill.com, trade only. **Sconces:** owner's collection.
Pages 32—33. Study—**Rug:** antique. **Floor lamp; bench; bowl:** owner's collection. **Coffee table** ("Hayworth Cocktail Table"/Gold Leaf finish #A320C-GS): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Sofa** ("Bertram Sofa" #7003-S): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. Available at Calico Corners/Calico Home, 800/213-6366. **Sofa fabric** ("Sarala"/Slate): Annie Selke Home, available at Calico Corners/Calico Home, 800/213-6366. **Striped pillow:** owner's collection. **Club chair** ("Eddie Leather Chair" #L7007-CH): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Chair fabric** ("Glam Metal Leather"/Ocean): Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Paint** ("Pale Powder" #204): Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121, farrow-ball.com. Living room—**Wallpaper** ("Plain Stripe" #ST1156): Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121, farrow-ball.com. **Rug:** antique. **Sofas** ("Town Settee" #7009-SE); **ottoman** ("Bamboo Cocktail Ottoman" #7022-OT); **round table** in window (O'Hara Lamp Table"/Oiled Java #A325L-OJ): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Sofa fabric** ("Ila"/Citrus); **pink pillow fabric** ("Esha"/ Raspberry, Pink): Annie Selke Home, available at Calico Corners/Calico Home, 800/213-6366, calicocorners.com. **Center pillow with tassels:** antique. **Drapery and ottoman fabric** ("Delphine"/ Clover): Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Gold side chair** ("Ava Chair"/Gold Leaf #7014-CH): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Vase; glass console table** behind sofa; **mirror** above mantel; **flamingo painting:** owner's collection. **Pair of lamps** (#60129): Bradburn Gallery, 800/814-5267, bradburngallery.com, trade only. **Table; vase:** owner's collection.
Pages 34—35. Dining room—**Wallpaper/mural:** Mural by Sue Leal, 518/781-4369. **Bamboo wall covering:** Stark Wall Covering, 212/355-7186, starkwallcovering.com, trade only. **Rug** ("Zebra"): Dash & Albert Rug Co., 800/442-8157, trade only. **Sideboard** ("Piper Console"/Swedish White #A321S-SD): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Candlestick; vase; plates:** owner's collection. **Napkins** ("Classic Hemstitch Linen"): Potluck Studios, 800/442-8157, potluckstudios.com, trade only. **Horn chair:** antique. **Figure on windowsill:** owner's collection. Dining room, table view—**Object** on windowsill, far left; **planter; blue plates; floral plates; green glasses; clear goblets; placemats; rock crystal; candelabra:** owner's collection. **Table** (Dining table with glass top, #A731TG-SI, with **two demilune tables**, #A731STG-SI, both in Silver Leaf); **mirror** ("Clive Mirror"/Silver Leaf and Oiled Java #A327M-OJ): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Chairs** ("Circle-Back Side Chair"/French Gray #7012S): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. Available at Calico Corners/ Calico Home, 800/213-6366, calicocorners.com. **Chair fabric** ("Lizzie Suede"/Sky): Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. Foyer—**Rug:** antique. **Stair runner** ("Steps"): Dash & Albert Rug Co., 800/442-8157, dashandalbert.com, trade only. **Chairs** ("O'Hara Chair"/Oiled Java #7015-CH): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Fabric** ("Slubby Linen"/ Ivory): Annie Selke Home, available at Calico Corners/Calico Home, 800/213-6366. **Table; framed print:** owner's collection. Downstairs bathroom—**Mural:** Sue Leal, 518/781-4369. **Floor:** original to house. **Chair** ("Hayworth Carved Chair"/Gold Leaf #7011-CH): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Fabric** ("Slubby Linen"/ Ivory): Annie Selke Home, available at Calico Corners/Calico Home, 800/213-6366. **Throw; sink** (one-of-a-kind); **faucet; soap dish; vase; mirror:** owner's collection. Kitchen—**Paint** ("Timid White" #2148-60 and #OC-39): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667. **Valance; banquette:** custom. **Banquette-and-chair fabric** ("Scramble"/Slate): Annie Selke Home, available at Calico Corners/Calico Home, 800/213-6366, calicocorners.com. **Chairs** ("Side Chair"/French Gray #7016S); **table** ("Everly Round Dining Table"/French Gray #A732T-FG): Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture, vanguardfurniture.com. **Blue-and-white china; vase and bowls:** owner's collection.

Pages 52—56

COOKING SCHOOL: SHAKE, SHAKE, SHAKE

Page 54. **Crystal martini glass with pewter stem** (from Match; $88): Material Possessions, 888/241-1190, materialpossessions.com.
Page 56. Tray—**Rectangular tray** (7x28 inches, shimmer red, from Martha Sturdy; $264): Material Possessions, 888/241-1190, materialpossessions.com.

Pages 60—64

GREEN SPACE: COMPANY'S COMING

Pages 60–62. **Duvet cover and flanged shams** ("Ambience"/Pomegranate, Pure Style Collection); **gold sham** ("EcoQuilt"/Wheatfield, EcoPoly II Collection); **bolster** ("EcoPaisley"/Wheatfield, EcoPoly II Collection); **red pillow** ("Sensuede II"/Tabasco, Pure Style Collection): Robert Allen, 800/333-3777, robertallendesign.com, trade only. Furniture—**"Mistletoe Sleigh Bed"** (#BH7816): Lewis Mittman, 212/888-5580, ef-lm.com, trade only. **"Buena Vista Bedside Table"** (#AT7835): Edward Ferrell, 336/841-3028, ef-lm.com, trade only. **Wall covering** ("Nami Rushcloth"/Woodrose, Natural Textures): F. Schumacher & Co., fschumacher.com, trade only. **"Large Egg" table lamp** in Clear, with large open cone shade in Raffia, $446 (lamp, $313; shade, $133): Jamie Young Co., 866/295-2677, jamieyoung.com for store locations. **White roses:** Organic Style, 877/899-2468, organicstyle.com. **"Lakeside Small Tulip Vase;" "Aurora Lead Crystal Clear Sphere"; rug** ("Tuva"100 per cent wool loop/Flax): Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, 800/789-5401, mgbwhome.com. **Silk throw** on footboard: Kumi Kookoon, 310/515-8811, kumikookoon.com.
Page 64. **"Thatcher Bookcase"** in vintage rattan: Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, 800/789-5401, mgbwhome.com. **Soap dish and cup:** Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507, potterybarn.com. **Stacked bedding** ("Red Roses" quilt; "Gold Waves" sheets; "Red Dots" pillowcase): PloverOrganic, 866/540-8377, ploverorganic.com. **Towels** ("Lauren Spa Collection" in Cinnabar and Dune); **scented candles** (all-natural vegetable/soy wax with lead-free wick): Ralph Lauren, 888/475-7674, ralphlauren.com. **"Asian Modern Round Vase"; spice; "Eclipse" lacquered bowl** (with pine cones) in willow and silver leaf: Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, 800/789-5401, mgbwhome.com.

Pages 71—79

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Interior designer: Gerald Pomeroy, Gerald Pomeroy Design Group, 21 Milford St., Suite 2, Boston, MA 02118; 617/227-6693. **Contractor:** PAL Painting & Construction, 978/927-6592. **Floral designers:** Daniel Lopez-Ospina and Jeb Taylor, New Leaf Flores, 599 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130; 617/522-1101, newleafjp.com, trade only. **Upholsterers:** Connors Design Ltd., 508/429-4980. **Drapery fabrication:** Miles River Sewing, 978/750-4923.
Pages 72—73. Library—**Sofa** ("Mayfair Tight-Back Sofa" #24660.08, customized); **sofa fringe** ("Brushed Fringe" by Houlès): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, brunschwig.com, trade only. **Sofa fabric** ("English Wool Stripe"/Terra-Cotta #33914-6); **pillow on sofa** ("Flocon de Neige"/ Multi #33815-1); **wallpaper** ("Authentic Raffia"/ Bamboo #6862-5): Clarence House Inc., 800/803-2850, clarencehouse.com, trade only. **Upholstered chairs** ("Chatfield Club Chair" #CH186): Edward Ferrell, 336/841-3028, ef-lm.com, trade only. **Area rug** (antique): First Oriental Rugs, 978/739-9033, firstorientalrugs.com. **Kidney desk:** Lewis Mittman Inc., 212/888-5580, ef-lm.com, trade only. **Chandelier and sconces** ("Serrant Empire"): Vaughan Designs, 212/319-7070, vaughandesigns.com, trade only. **Greek key mirror:** Agostino Antiques, 212/421-8820. **French tea table:** Autrefois Antiques, 617/566-0113, autrefoisantiques.com. **Cabinets** flanking fireplace: owner's collection.
Pages 74—75. Living room—**Chandelier** ("Belleville" #CLA39); **sconces** ("Ditchley Storm Wall Light" #WL77): Vaughan Designs, 212/319-7070, trade only. **Shades** on chandelier: Pierre Deux, 888/743-7732, pierredeux.com. **Drapery** ("Chardon"/Yellow #34153-3): Clarence House Inc., 800/803-2850, clarencehouse.com, trade only. **Drapery trim** ("Charleston Frayed Fringe"/Gold with Green, Rust, Beige #33382-9579 by Houlès): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Area rug** ("Relay"/Pesto): Stark Carpet, 212/752-9000, starkcarpet.com, trade only. **Sofa table** (antique): Alexander Westerhoff Fine Antique Furnishings, 978/768-3830. **Sofas** ("Oxford Sofa" #210066.08): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Sofa fabric** ("Melograno"/Multi on Cinnabar #26464-003, by Colony): Scalamandré, 800/932-4361, scalamandre.com, tade only. **Ottoman** ("Crispin Ottoman" #401185): Travers, 212/888-7900, trade only. **Cashmere throw** on ottoman: Simon Pearce, 800/774-5277, simonpearce.com. **Chairs at fireplace:** The Barn at 17 Antiques, 617/625-5204, thebarnat17.com. **Chair-seat fabric** (existing): owner's collection. **Mantel:** original to house. **Painting** over mantel (by Jean-Pierre Dubord): The Christina Gallery, 800/648-1815, christina.com. ➤

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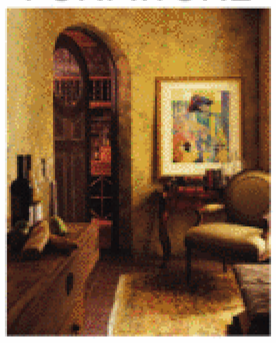

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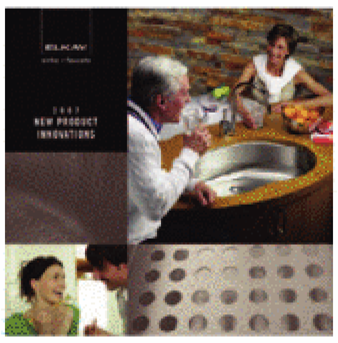

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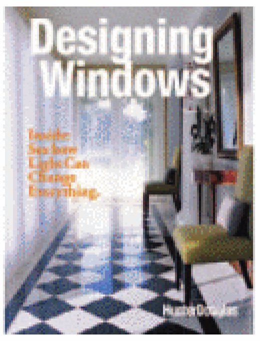

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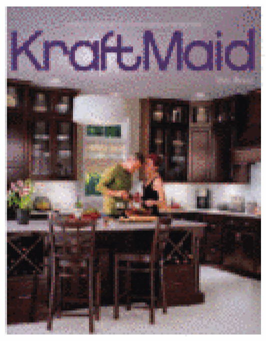

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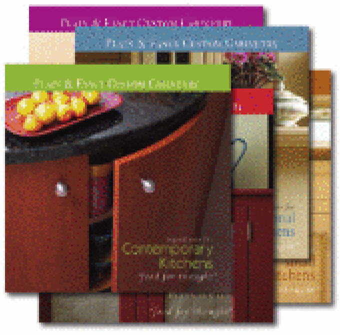

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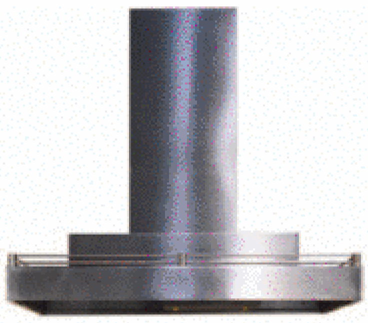

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Fireplace accessories: Adams Fireplace, 617/547-3100. **Paint:** custom. Sunroom—**Bamboo console:** Louis J. Solomon, 631/232-5300, trade only. **Botanical prints:** Churchill & White, 617/367-0917. **Italian chairs:** The Barn at 17 Antiques, 617/625-5204. **Chair-seat fabric**; **bronze horse; sisal rug:** owner's collection. **Ottomans** (design by Gerald Pomeroy): Connors Design Ltd., 508/429-4980. **Ottoman fabric** ("Luca"/Yellow #16339-006): Scalamandré, 800/932-4261, scalamandre.com, trade only. Mud room—**Windsor bench:** owner's collection. **Bench fabric** (Buffalo plaid in coral and gold): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Floor:** red brick with lacquer finish.
Pages 76—77. Grand hall—**Hanging lanterns:** Vaughan Designs, 212/319-7070, trade only. **Settee**: owner's collection. **Gold settee fabric** ("Monte Rosa Woven Damask"/Yellow #89600-331): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Area rug** (antique): First Oriental Rugs, 978/739-9033, firstorientalrugs.com. **Wall paint** (custom awning stripe by Cheryl O'Donnell): Gerald Pomeroy Design Group, 617/227-6693. **Trim paint** ("Dimity" #2008): Farrow & Ball, 888/511-1121. farrow-ball.com. **Wood floor:** original to house.
Dining room—**Wallpaper** ("Chantilly" on custom-colored silk): De Gournay, 212/564-9750, degournay.com, trade only. **Trim paint** ("Putnam Ivory" #HC-39): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667. **Sconces** (Louis XV): Blanche P. Field LLC, 617/423-0715, trade only. **Chairs** ("Elgin Major Arm Chair"): Niermann Weeks, 212/319-7979, niermannweeks.com, trade only. **Chair-seat fabric** ("Marignan" #72632-9300, by Houlès, discontinued): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Table**: Alexander Westerhoff Fine Antique Furnishings, 978/768-3830. **Bow-front chest**: Leonards Antiques Inc., 508/228-0620. **Mirror**: Alexander Westerhof Antiques, 978/768-3830. **Lavender lamp** ("Bella Figura"): Lee Jofa, 800/453-3563, leejofa.com, trade only. **Lampshade** (custom, by Blanche P. Field LLC): through Pomeroy Design Group, 617/227-6693. **Chandelier:** original to house. **Area rug** (wool sisal): Stark Carpet Corp., 212/752-9000, starkcarpet.com, trade only. **Drapery** ("Satin La Tour Jaune" #34520.00/6004): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Drapery hardware** (custom); **settee:** owner's collection. **Settee fabric** ("Timothy"/Rust #TOTIM 1110-006, by Timothy Dare): Fonthill Ltd., 212/755-6700, trade only.
Pages 78—79. Master bedroom—**Bed:** owner's collection. **Drapery, bed-skirt and floral pillow fabric** ("Festival of Lanterns Linen Print"/Powder Blue #79704-204); **bedspread** ("Petassoun Matelassé"/Antique White #89462-002): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Plaid pillows** on bed ("Mayfair Check" #10793-03): Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, trade only. **Bedside tables:** owner's collection. **Table lamps** (white terra-cotta): Christopher Anthony Ltd., 617/523-1992. **Wallpaper** ("Wilton Stripe"/Cream #60/6031-CS, Cole & Son): Lee Jofa, 800/453-3563, trade only. **Upholstered settee:** The Barn at17 Antiques, 617/625-5204. **Pillows** on settee and bed ("Seascape" by Barbara Barry): Bloomingdale's, 866/593-2540, bloomingdales.com. **Wood chairs:** The Barn at 17 Antiques, 617/625-5204. **Seat fabric:** owner's collection. **White garden urn** holding tree: Berry's Greenhouse, 617/542-9045. **Carpet** ("Preston II"/Sky Blue, by Prestige Mills): Harry's Carpet One, 617/328-4002. **Sconces:** Vaughan Designs, 212/319-7070, trade only. **Garden stool** (custom): A.P.H. Waller & Son Antiques, 978/768-6269. **Mantel:** original to house. **Painting** over mantel: owner's collection. **Fireplace accessories:** Adams Fireplace, 617/547-3100.
Seating area—**Club chair; ottoman; chair and ottoman fabric** ("Emily Anne's Coverlet"/Denim #46080-002); **pillow fabric** on club chair ("Festival of Lanterns Linen Print"/Powder Blue" #79704-204): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Table** beside club chair: The Barn at 17 Antiques, 617/625-5204. **Table lamp:** owner's collection.

Pages 80—89
MAKING MAGIC

Architect: Cynthia Childs, AIA, Cynthia Childs Architect, Newport Beach, CA 92660; 949/718-3528. **Interior designer:** Brenda Eastman, Les Interieurs, 1701 Westcliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660; 949/650-7603. **Contractor/builder:** Neil Longman, Longman Construction, 336 Snug Harbor Rd., Newport Beach, CA 92663; 949/722-7711. **Landscape architect:** David Pedersen Landscape Architect, 20271 SW Acacia St., #20, Newport Beach, CA 92660; 949/251-8999.
Throughout—**Doors and windows:** Builders Millwork Inc., 714/836-4383. **Cabinetry:** designed by Cynthia Childs, 949/718-3528. **Fabrication:** Circle City Cabinets, 714/282-1251. **Cabinetry hardware:** New York Hardware Co., 949/631-0631. **Flooring** (mahogany): Gaetano Hardwood Floors Inc., 714/536-6942. **Paneling/beadboard:** designed by Cynthia Childs, 949/718-3528. **Fabrication:** Greg Pautsch Building, 714/878-2974. **Christmas tree garlands:** Rogers Gardens, 800/647-2356, rogersgardens.com.
Pages 80—81. Dining room—**Chandelier** ("Lilli Chandelier"): Moonlighting Studio, 949/650-7400, moonlightingstudio.com. **Table; angels; dining chairs:** Les Interieurs, 949/650-7603. **Dining chair-fabric** ("Raffia"/Natural); **host and hostess chairs** (#189-41); **slipcover fabric** ("Davis"/Patina): Lee Industries, 800/892-7150, leeindustries.com. **Crystal ornaments:** Wholesale Flowers, 800/600-8483, flowersandsupplies.com. **Glass bottles**: owner's collection.
Pages 82—83. Living room—**Tree design:** Les Interieurs, 949/650-7603. **Pendant light** ("Campana Ceiling-Mount Chandelier"): Moonlighting Studio, 949/650-7400, moonlightingstudio.com. **English-arm sofa** (#3477); **sofa and pillow fabric** ("Slubby"/Spa); **chairs** (#4414-01); **pillows** on sofa and windowseat ("Zany"/Herb): Lee Industries, 800/892-7150. **Zebra bench:** Les Interieurs, 949/650-7603. **Coffee table** ("Old Jali Coffee Table"): RJ Imports, 949/248-1464. **Paint** ("Silver Sage"): Restoration Hardware, 800/910-9836, restorationhardware.com. **Art** above mantel: owner's collection.
Pages 84—85. Kitchen—**Hanging lights over island:** The Limehouse Lamp Co., 011 44 127 349 7070, limehouselighting.com. Available through Nowells Lighting, 415/332-4933. **Range:** Thermador, 800/656-9226, thermador.com. **Refrigerator:** Sub-Zero Inc., 800/222-7820, subzero.com. **Sinks and faucets:** Rohl, 800/777-9762, rohlhome.com. **Dishwasher:** Fisher & Paykel Appliances Inc., 800/863-5394, fisherpaykel.com.
Nook—**Table:** owner's collection. **Stools:** Shangai Julie, 949/632-4403. **Square pendant light** over table ("Box Pendant"): Moonlighting Studio, 949/650-7400. **Gold table runner; napkins:** Target, target.com. **Banquette fabric** (discontinued); **rug runner:** Old World Weavers, 212/355-7186, trade only. **Reindeer bells:** Les Interieurs, 949/650-7603. **Paint** ("Silver Sage"): Restoration Hardware, 800/910-9836.
Pages 86—87. Wine room—**Cabinetry** *(*designed by Cynthia Childs): fabrication by Circle City Cabinets, 714/282-1251. **Hardware:** New York Hardware Co., 949/631-0631. **Flooring:** Gaetano Flooring, 714/536-6942. **Chandelier** ("Large Moroccan Chandelier"): Moonlighting Studio, 949/650-7400. **Tequila glasses:** owner's collection.
Pages 88—89. Master bedroom—**Bed:** Les Interieurs, 949/650-7603. **Fan:** through Fanimation, 888/567-2055, fanimation.com. **Slipper chairs in white linen; art over bed:** owner's collection. **White lamp** on bedside table (Postobello Collection): Drexel Heritage, 866/450-3434, drexelheritage.com. **Celadon pillows** ("Tortola Multi Fern"): Ann Dennis Designs, 714/708-2555. **Paint** ("Silver Sage"): Restoration Hardware, 800/910-9836.
Master bathroom—**Cabinetry** (designed by Cynthia Childs): Circle City Cabinets, 714/282-1251. **Hardware:** New York Hardware Co., 949/631-0631. **Paneling** (designed by Cynthia Childs): Greg Pautsch Finish Carpentry, 714/878-2974. **Sinks:** Kohler, 800/456-4537, kohler.com. **Sink fixtures** (Newport Brass and Horus); **shower fixtures** (Horus); **tub and tub fixtures:** The Bath Company, 949/364-4334, bath-company.com. **Toiletries:** Waterworks, 800/899-6757, waterworks.com. **Flooring; countertops:** Tile Matters, 714/968-4576, tilematters.com. Boy's bedroom—**Fan:** Home Depot USA Inc., homedepot.com. **Ceiling paper and wall behind bed** ("Woven Rattan"): Kenneth McDonald Designs, 800/959-7496. **Striped fabric on chair** (discontinued): Ralph Lauren Home, 888/475-7674, ralphlaurenhome.com. **Shades:** Bartolo Window Treatment Designs, 714/558-1855. **Chair; rug; paint:** owner's collection.

Pages 90—95
DEAR SANTA

Architect: Kirk Hillman (deceased). **Interior and kitchen designer:** Stacey Lapuk, ASID, Stacey Lapuk Interior Design Group, 519 Wisteria Way, San Rafael, CA 94903; 415/499-1228, staceylapukinteriors.com. **Contractor:** Tom Warrington, TWW Associates, 415/897-4710.
Pages 90—95. Kitchen—**Cabinetry** (custom); **island beadboard and cabinetry** (custom); **boxbeam ceiling** with pewter detailing (custom); **built-in wine rack** (custom); **beadboard siding:** Kirk Hillman, TWW Assoc., 415/897-4710. **Cabinetry and beadboard paint** ("Linen White"): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667. **Cabinetry finish** (hand-glazed finish in Champagne, textured by Olivia Gulish): Stacey Lapuk Interior Design, 415/499-1228. **Cabinetry glass inlay:** Ultra Glas, 800/777-2332, ultraglas.com. **Cabinet pulls** (pewter): Colonial Bronze Co., 860/489-9233, colonialbronze.com. **Countertops** (honed Sarin Colin marble): Integrated Resources Group, 888/263-1543, marblecompany.com. **Backsplash** (limestone basketweave with mosaic border detail): through Stacey Lapuk Interior Design, 415/499-1228. **Mosaic tile detail:** Tile & Stone Concepts, 415/457-9422. **Bar stools** (pine): English Country Pine, 415/485-3800. **Breakfast bar** (Cherry); **hood** (custom, etched pewter detailing, designed by Kirk Hillman): TWW Assoc., 415/897-4710. **Hood liner; range; oven; cutting board on range top:** Viking, 888/845-4641, vikingrange.com. **Pot filler:** Franke Kitchen Systems Division, 800/626-5771, frankeksd.com. **White jug; mugs; spoons; Christmas tree topiaries:** Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507, potterybarn.com. **White jug** to right of range; **amaryllis and vase; vase holding pomegranates; Christmas tree candles:** Smith & Hawken, 800/940-1170, smithandhawken.com. **Gold tray:** West Elm, 888/922-4119, westelm.com. **Oils:** owner's collection. **Stock pot; ladle:** All Clad, 800/255-2523, all-clad.com. **Island wine storage; refrigerator; wine refrigerator:** Sub-Zero, 800/222-7820, subzero.com. **Light fixture** above island (custom, ironware): through Stacey Lapuk Interior Design, 415/499-1228. **Farmhouse sink; faucet:** Rohl, 800/777-9762, rohlhome.com. **Floors** (oak): original to home. **Espresso machine** (Isomac): 1st-Line Equipment, 888/933-5947, 1st-line.com. **Vase with flowers:** Crate & Barrel, 800/996-9960, crateandbarrel.com. Dining area—**Table:** Wright Table, 828/437-2766. **Chairs:** Nichols & Stone, 978/632-2770, nicholsandstone.com. **Chair cushions; window treatment** (silk, designed by homeowner): Sal Beressi Fabrics, 415/861-5004. **Chandelier** (custom, ironware): available through Stacey Lapuk Interior Design, 415/499-1228. **Sconces:** 2nd Avenue Lighting, 800/843-1602, 2ndave.com. **Vase** ("Camilla Bowl"); **runner; ornaments:** Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507. **Vanity Fair art prints**: owner's collection. **Artwork** to left of window (by Ed Righetti): Galerie Breheret, Paris, galerie-breheret.com. **Wall paint** ("Golden Straw" #2152-50); **beadboard and trim paint** ("Linen White"): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667.
Children decorating—**Breakfast bar** (Cherry): TWW Assoc., 415/897-4710. **Gingerbread tin decorating kit; dish towels; cookie cutters:** Williams-Sonoma, 800/541-2233, williams-sonoma.com.

Pages 96—103
INTO THE LIGHT

Architect: John Forehand, lead project architect, Darcy Bonner & Assoc. LLC, 205 W. Wacker Dr., Suite 307, Chicago, IL 60606; 312/853-3470. **Interior designers:** Barbara Svihla and Olivia Paxton, Svihla Paxton Interiors, 630/947-5657 and 630/525-0048. **Designer of furniture and draperies:** Mary Anne Herring, 630/254-1776. **Contractor:** Bill Ryan, Roslin Homes, 901 Elm ➤

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Pages 96—97. Oval window—**Interior window** (Weather Shield Woodclad Alabaster #WSP08): Weather Shield Windows and Doors, 800/477-6808, weathershield.com. Through Edward Hines Lumber Co., 888/334-4637. Breakfast area—**Table** (antique): owner's collection. **Chairs:** Crate & Barrel, 800/996-9960. **Candlesticks** on table: Climate Home, 773/862-7075. **Glasses:** Simon Pearce, 800/774-5277, simonpearce.com. **Napkins, silver chargers; napkin rings:** Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507, potterybarn.com. **Silver bowl:** Trousseaux, 630/455-5990. **White dinner plates:** Crate & Barrel, 800/996-9960, crateandbarrel.com. **Upholstered chairs** (#1630): Sherrill Furniture Co., 828/322-2640, sherrillfurniture.com. **Pillow:** Akins & Aylesworth Ltd., 630/325-3355. **Chinese needlework rug** (by Patterson, Flynn & Martin): Schumacher, fschumacher.com. **Lamp and artwork** (antique toile fabric); **pink toile antique plates:** Mary Anne Herring, 630/254-1776. **Topiary trees:** Ballard Designs, 800/536-7551, ballarddesigns.com. **Wall paint** ("White Dove" #OC-17, flat); **trim paint** ("White Dove" #OC-17, satin): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667.
Pages 98—99. Living room—**Sofa and fabric** (Serenade Collection): Kravet, 888/457-2838, kravet.com, trade only. **Pillows** on sofa ("Safari"/Daim #4576-01, by Manuel Canovas): Cowtan & Tout, 212/647-6900, cowtan.com, trade only. **Piano:** Young Chang Piano, youngchang.com. **Area rug** (wool sisal): Christopher Michaels Fine Carpets & Floors, 630/833-5410; customcarpetcraft.com. **Leather ottoman:** Sherrill Furniture Co., 828/322-2640. **Mirror:** Restoration Hardware, 800/910-9836, restorationhardware.com. **Wicker chair:** Crate & Barrel, 800/996-9960. **Drapery** (Great Plains mohair): Holly Hunt, 312/661-1900, hollyhunt.com, trade only. **Throw** on ottoman; **Mercury-glass candlesticks** on mantel: Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507. **Vase and large candlestick** on mantel: Crate & Barrel, 800/996-9960. **Dining-room table:** Vintage Pine, 312/943-9303, vintagepine.com. **Woven roll shades** ("Sea Breeze"/Boardwalk #1625): Smith + Noble, 800/765-7776, smithandnoble.com. **Dining chairs:** Z Gallerie, 800/358-8288, zgallerie.com. **Mercury-glass vases; silver ornaments** on tree and **tree skirt**: Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507. **Aqua ornaments** on tree: Restoration Hardware, 800/910-9836. **Wall paint** ("White Dove" #OC-17, flat); **trim paint** ("White Dove" #OC-17, satin): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667. Front entry with carved nativity—**Trumeau mirror:** Mike Bell Antiques & Reproductions, 312/644-6848, mikebellonline.com. **Table:** owner's collection. **Lamps:** Mary Anne Herring, 630/254-1776. **Vases** with river rocks and berries: Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507. **Nativity**: owner's collection.
Pages 100—101. Front room—**Chairs and ottoman:** Pearson Co., 336/882-8135, pearsonco.com. **Chair fabric** (black-and-white check): Schumacher, fschumacher.com, trade only. **Throw/blanket:** Bloomingdale's, 800/555-7467. **Side table:** owner's collection. **Decorative finish** on table: Steve Esme, Paper Horse Studio, 815/866-9991. **Lamp:** Mary Ann Herring, 630/254-1776. **Sconces** ("Bryant Sconce"/Bronze by Thomas O'Brien): Visual Comfort & Co., 713/686-5999, trade only. **Drapery** ("Country Life Toile"; discontinued): Hinson & Co., 212/688-5538, trade only. Kitchen—**Cabinetry:** Rick Dell, Dell Custom Cabinets, 630/707-5794. **Hardware** (polished nickel): The Knobbery, 847/342-0803, theknobbery.com. **Countertop** (Carrera white marble); **island countertop** (honed Black Absolute Granite): Touch of Stone, 630/617-0080, touchofstonechicago.com. **Backsplash** (Carrera marble mini subway tiles): Ann Sacks, 800/278-8453, annsacks.com. **Bar stools** ("Grayson Bar Stool"): Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507. **Sink** ("Lakefield" under counter cast iron sink): Kohler, 800/456-4537, kohler.com. **Faucet** ("Country Kitchen Faucet"/polished nickel): Rohl, 800/777-9762. **Stove and range hood:** Wolf Appliance Co., 800/366-9653, wolfrange.com. **Kitchen vent hood** (custom, stainless steel): Horizon Heating & Cooling, 815/838-9100. **Reindeer bowl and pink toile plates** on island: Mary Anne Herring, 630/254-1776. **Cake plates and napkins:** Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507. **Wall paint** ("White Dove" #OC-17, flat); **trim paint** ("White Dove" #OC-17, satin): Benjamin Moore & Co., 888/236-6667.
Pages 102—103. Master bedroom—**Paint** ("Icy Morn, #1470, Accolade Interior Velvet; discontinued. Similar color, "Summer Sky" #22-31): Pratt & Lambert Paints, 800/289-7728, prattandlambert.com. **Pine mantel** (owner's collection): adapted by Simpsons Building Solutions,630/330-0853. **Bed** ("Cottage Bed"); **slipcovered chair:** Crate & Barrel, 800/996-9960. **Bedding** (by Donna Karan): Bloomingdale's, 800/555-7467. **Throw/blanket; drapery** (smocked cotton voile); **side table; candlesticks** on mantel; **greenery garland; silver ornaments; glass ornament:** Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507. **Drapery hardware** (Estate Collection); **round aqua ornament:** Restoration Hardware, 800/910-9836. **Drapery in closet:** Pottery Barn Kids, 800/993-4923, potterybarnkids.com. **Antique pine table** in closet: Mary Anne Herring, 630/254-1776. **Lamp:** Akins & Aylesworth Ltd., 630/325-3355. **Mirror** on mantel (antique, French): owner's collection. **Sconces** ("Bryant Sconce"/Bronze by Thomas O'Brien): Visual Comfort & Co., 713/686-5999, trade only.
Exterior—**Windows:** Edward Hines Lumber Co., 888/334-4637, hineslumber.com. **Exterior paint** ("Mystic White"); **cedar shakes** ("Pearl Grey Translucent Stain," individually hand dipped): Olympic Paint & Stain, 800/441-9695, olympic.com. **Brick** (1776 Series Hubbardton, Jumbo Simulated Hand-Made): Glen-Gery Brick, 248/489-9338, glengerybrick.com. **Roof** (cedar shakes): Tilden Roofing, 630/834-4325. **Painters:** Diamond Decorating Inc., 630/231-6549. **Porch, steps, patio and walkways** (Bluestone): Prairie Path Pavers, 708/354-2182, prairiepathpavers.com. **Millwork:** Tony Simpson, Simpsons Building Solutions, 630/330-0853.

Pages 104—111

HOMEMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Architect for addition: John Milner, FAIA, John Milner Architects Inc., 104 Lakeview Dr., Chadds Ford, PA 19317; 610/388-0111, johnmilnerarchitects.com. **Interior designer:** Bill Brockschmidt and Courtney Coleman, Brockschmidt and Coleman LLC, Decoration and Design, 139 Reade St., Suite 1A, New York, NY 10013; 212/608-5065; brockschmidtandcoleman.com. **Upholstering:** Bar & Associates Interior Designs, 3410 Old Capitol Trail, Wilmington, DE 198808; 302/999-9233.
Pages 104—109. Dining room—**Wall color** ("Bold Bolection" #HIST57, Historic Colors of America): California Paints, 800/225-1141, californiapaints.com. **Table and chairs; chandelier:** owner's collection. **Chair seat fabric** (custom color waxed "Luxe" leather): Edelman Leather, 800/886-8339, edelmanleather.com. **Area rug** (handwoven Abaca Irish Weave by Natural Carpet): Colonial Brandywine Rug Co., 302/654-1121. **Round mirror**: Agostino Antiques, 732/345-7301, agostinoantiques.com. **Urns**: Brockschmidt & Coleman, 212/608-5065. **Window treatment**: Brockschmidt & Coleman, 212/608-5065. **Drapery fabric** (discontinued); **custom cord and tassels:** Scalamandré, 800/932-4361, scalamandre.com, trade only. **Tape trim** (by Houlès): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **China** (by Puiforcat); **sterling flatware** (from Argentina): owner's collection. **Stemware:** Lalique North America, 800/993-2580, cristallalique.fr. Living room toward window—**Wall color** (custom); **strié paint finish** (custom): Gael Szymanski, Decorative Finishers, 302/652-0516. **Sofa; drapery; drapery hardware; mirror** between windows: owner's collection. **Sofa fabric** ("George Spencer Strié"/Terra-Cotta): Claremont Home Furnishings, 212/486-1252, claremontfurnishing.com, trade only. **Pillows:** Virginia di Sciascio Antique Textiles, 212/794-2725, antiquetextilestudio.com. **Tray table** (English Regency style painted tole tray table): Vaughan Designs, 212/319-7070, vaughandesigns.com, trade only. **Area rug** (antique, Russian Khotan): Richard Afkari Rugs on Stone Inc., 212/486-2227. **Ribbon** on Christmas tree: Hyman Hendler & Sons, 212/840-8393, hymanhendler.com. **Chippendale side chair** (reproduction): Agostino Antiques, 732/345-7301, agostinoantiques.com. **Seat fabric** ("Palmyre"/Bis): Claremont Home Furnishings, 212/486-1252, trade only. Living room toward fireplace—**Wall color** (custom); **strié paint finish** (custom): Gael Szymanski, Decorative Finishers, 302/652-0516. **Green sofa** (custom design); **antique needlepoint pillow:** Brockschmidt & Coleman, 212/608-5065. **Sofa fabrication:** Classic Sofa, 212/620-0485, classicsofa.com. **Sofa fabric** ("Mogador Cut Cotton Velvet" #LS0047): Old World Weavers, 212/355-7186, trade only. **Coffee table**: Incurable Collector Antiques, 718/596-2220. **Chair** to left of fireplace (custom design); **antique needlepoint pillow:** Brockschmidt & Coleman, 212/608-5065. **Chair fabric** (discontinued): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Wing chair**; **fauteuil:** owner's collection. **Wing-chair fabric** ("Palampore Panel"/Multi #65480.01); **tape trim** (by Houlès): Brunschwig & Fils, 212/838-7878, trade only. **Slipcover fabrication:** Clarissa de Muzio, Glen Court Design LLC, 610/668-1340. **Nesting tables:** Federalist Antiques, 847/256-1791, federalistantiques.com. **Fire screen**: Ball and Ball Antique Hardware Reproductions and Restoration, 610/363-7330, ballandball-us.com. **Sconces** ("Tulip" reproduction tole sconces): McLean Lighting Works, mcleanlighting.com.
Pages 110—111. Kitchen—**Cabinets** (custom): Quality Custom Cabinetry, 800/909-6006, qcc.com. **Kitchen layout and execution; hardware:** Craft-Way Kitchens Inc., 302/998-3305. **Counter stools** ("Aaron"/Black): Pottery Barn, 800/922-5507. **Seat-cushion fabric** ("Quentin"/Brown with Red,): Jane Shelton Fabrics, 601/936-4540, janeshelton.com. **Light fixture** above island: Restoration Hardware, 800/910-9836. **Painted paper shades** (design by Brockschmidt & Coleman): Just Shades New York, 212/966-2757, justshadesny.com. **Sink:** Blanco America, 800/451-5782, blancoamerica.com. **Faucet:** Rohl, 800/777-9762, rohlhome.com. **Wall tile** (ceramic subway tile): Nemo Tile, 212/505-0009, nemotile.com. **Cooktop:** Wolf Appliance Inc., 800/366-9653, wolfrange.com. **Braided rugs:** Beauvais Carpets Inc., 212/688-2265, beauvaiscarpets.com, trade only. **Table and chairs:** owner's collection. **Chair-seat fabric** ("Quentin"/Brown with Red): Jane Shelton Fabrics, 601/936-4540. Family room—**Wing chair:owner's collection. Chair fabric** ("Limoges"/Indigo): Raoul Textiles, 310/657-4931, raoultextiles.com, trade only. **Tape trim**: Rogers & Goffigon, 212/888-3242, trade only. **Ottoman/coffee table** (custom): Brockschmidt & Coleman, 212/608-5065. **Fabric** (waxed "Luxe" leather/Asparagus): Edelman Leather, 800/886-8339. **Sofa:** owner's collection. **Sofa fabric** ("Cyclades Woven Striped Linen"/Sifnos): Rogers & Goffigon, 212/888-3242, trade only. **Needlepoint pillows:** Vaughan Designs, 212/319-7070, trade only. **Gas fireplace; mantel** (custom): John Milner Architects Inc., 610/388-0111. **Wall finish** (custom strié paint finish on walls; milk paint finish on mantel): Gael Szymanski, Decorative Finishers, 302/652-0516.

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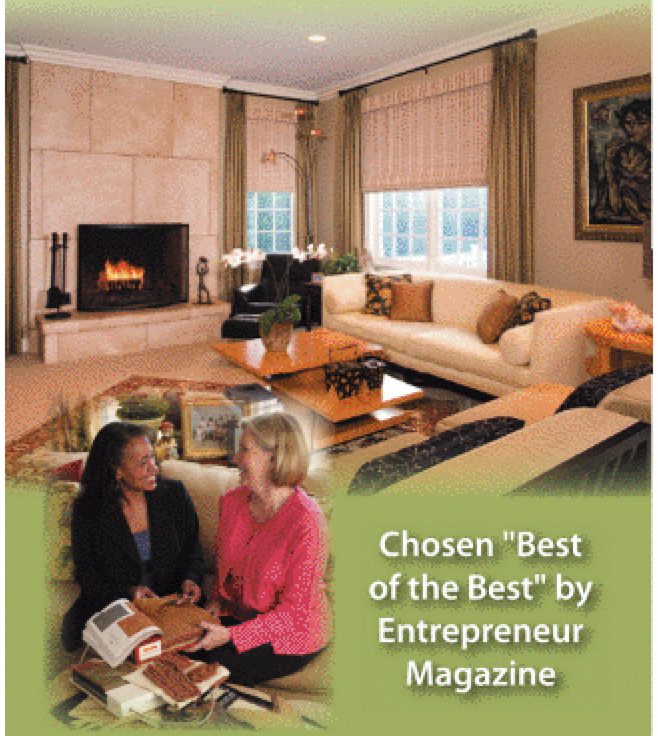

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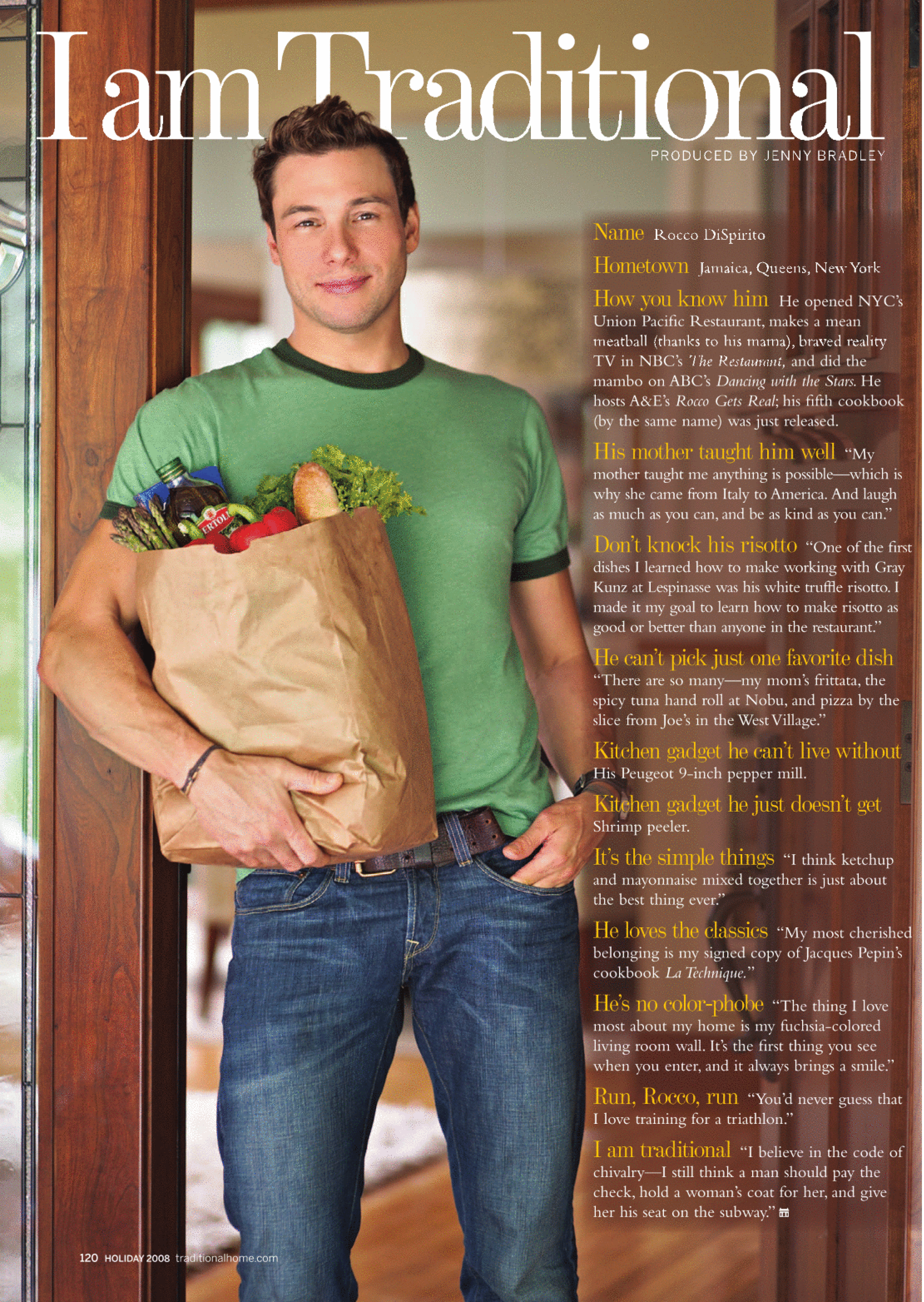

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Name Rocco DiSpirito

Hometown Jamaica, Queens, New York

How you know him He opened NYC's Union Pacific Restaurant, makes a mean meatball (thanks to his mama), braved reality TV in NBC's *The Restaurant,* and did the mambo on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars.* He hosts A&E's *Rocco Gets Real*; his fifth cookbook (by the same name) was just released.

His mother taught him well "My mother taught me anything is possible—which is why she came from Italy to America. And laugh as much as you can, and be as kind as you can."

Don't knock his risotto "One of the first dishes I learned how to make working with Gray Kunz at Lespinasse was his white truffle risotto. I made it my goal to learn how to make risotto as good or better than anyone in the restaurant."

He can't pick just one favorite dish "There are so many—my mom's frittata, the spicy tuna hand roll at Nobu, and pizza by the slice from Joe's in the West Village."

Kitchen gadget he can't live without His Peugeot 9-inch pepper mill.

Kitchen gadget he just doesn't get Shrimp peeler.

It's the simple things "I think ketchup and mayonnaise mixed together is just about the best thing ever."

He loves the classics "My most cherished belonging is my signed copy of Jacques Pepin's cookbook *La Technique.*"

He's no color-phobe "The thing I love most about my home is my fuchsia-colored living room wall. It's the first thing you see when you enter, and it always brings a smile."

Run, Rocco, run "You'd never guess that I love training for a triathlon."

I am traditional "I believe in the code of chivalry—I still think a man should pay the check, hold a woman's coat for her, and give her his seat on the subway." ▪

PHOTOGRAPH: GREG SCHEIDEMANN

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